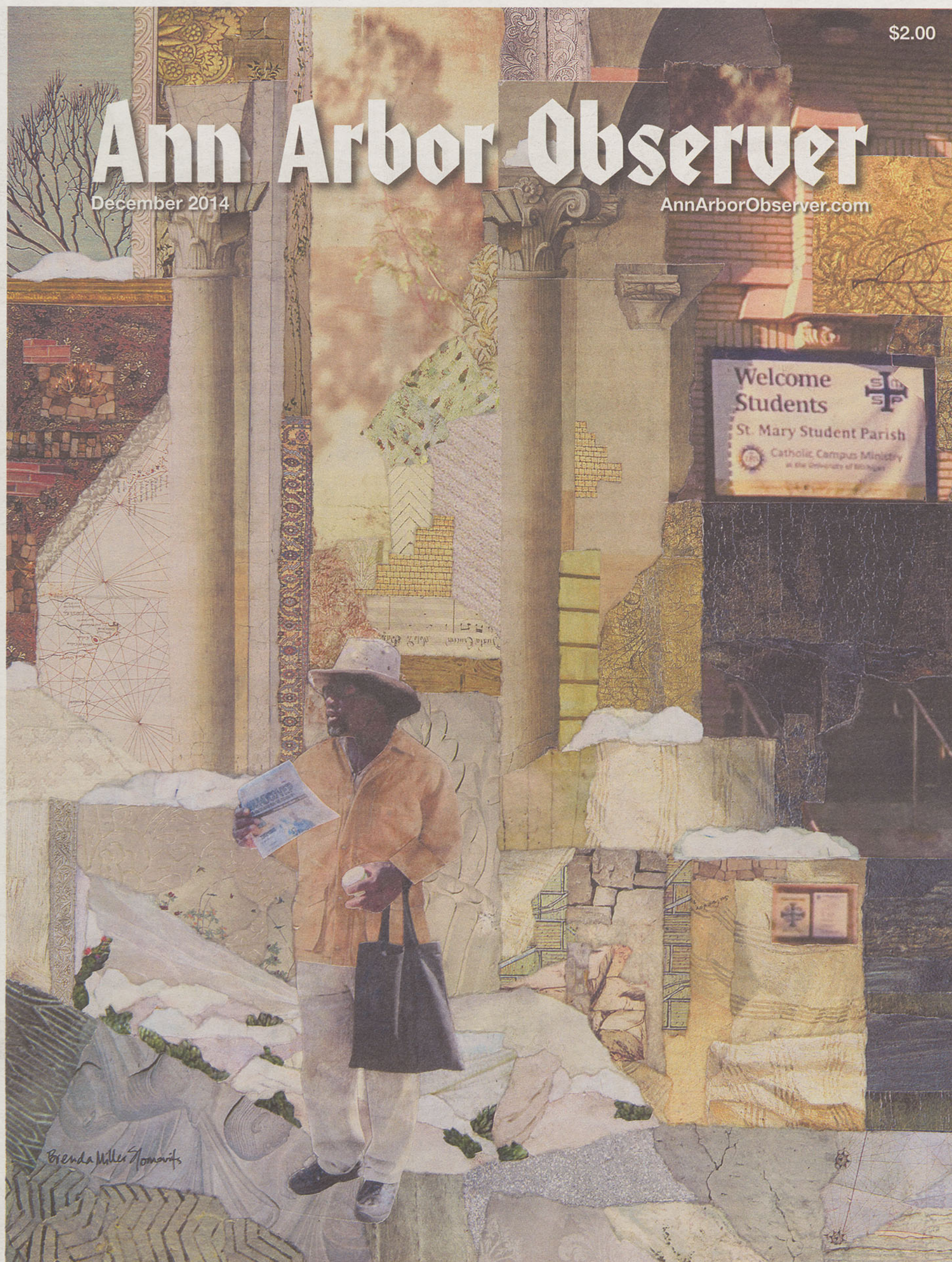


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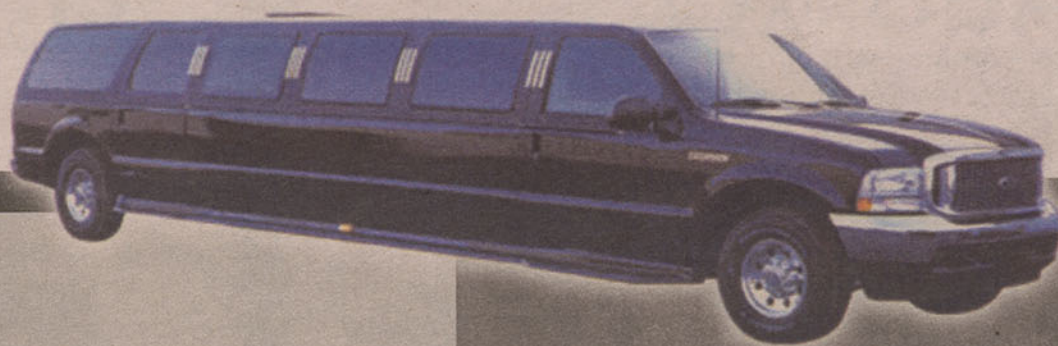
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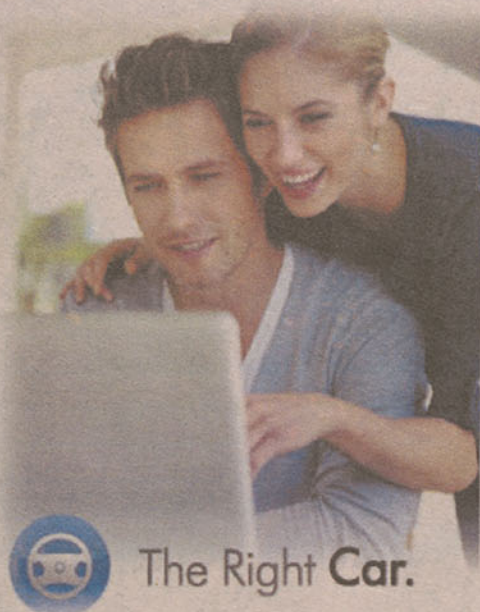
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Ann Arbor Observer

December 2014

vol. 39 • no. 4

Cover: Lonnie Baker sells *Groundcover News* at St. Mary's Student Parish.
Collage by Brenda Miller Slomovits.



features

- 35** Exit John Hieftje,
Enter Christopher Taylor
James Leonard
- 41** A Team of Their Own
Shelley Daily. Sidebar: Lawrence Power
- 45** (Bionic) Eye on the Prize
Ben Meyers
- 47** Lurie Terrace at Fifty
Grace Shackman
- 50** Mark Koernke and Me
Greg Stejskal

departments

- 11** Up Front
*James Leonard, Craig Ross,
Eve Silberman*
- 13** Inside Ann Arbor
*Tim Athan, James Leonard,
Jan Schlain, Eve Silberman*
- 25** Outside
Bob & Jorja Feldman
- 27** Crime Map
- 29** Ann Arborites
Shelley Daily
- 31** My Town
*Bertie Bonnell, Anita LeBlanc,
Ana Luisa Seromik*
- 65** Restaurant Review
*Michael Betzold, Lee Lawrence,
Sally Mitani*
- 69** Marketplace Changes
Sally Mitani
- 111** Back Page
Sally Bjork, Jay Forstner

what's happening



- 76** Music at Nightspots
John Hinchey
Shows at the Ark, the Blind Pig,
and more, plus a review of hard-
working guitarist Laith Al-Saadi.
- 79** Events
Katie Whitney & John Hinchey
Daily events in Ann Arbor during
December, plus listings of Films, p. 97;
new exhibits at local Galleries, p. 86;
and reviews of Rossini's *William Tell* in
concert; the live Met broadcast of *Die
Meistersinger*; poet Lorna Goodison;
the Community Messiah Sing; and
Joycean echoes in the Purple Rose's
Annapurna.
- 112** Events at a Glance

advertising sections

- 53** Holiday Gift Guide
- 108** Real Estate Section / Home Sales Map *Kevin Duke*
- 104** Classifieds **110** Services & Advertiser Index

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UpFront

The contrarian vote: In his successful mayoral campaign, Democrat Christopher Taylor got 27,979 votes. Independent Bryan Kelly got just 5,141. Measly as it is, that 15 percent showing was in line with those of other recent independent

mayoral runs—Eric Plourde and Albert Howard did a little worse in 2008 and 2012, respectively, leaving Steve Bean's 18 percent in 2010 as the high-water mark. In deep-blue Ann Arbor, no Republican has run for mayor since Jane Lumm in 2004.

Kelly describes his campaign as "a great learning experience" but says that in hindsight, he tried "for the wrong position. This was too important." The right position would be "city council, but first I would benefit from being on a commission: parks advisory or the pension and retiree health care—but that one's tightly focused and with a lot of professionals."

If he runs again, Kelly says, he's likely to do so as a Democrat. Another recent contrarian candidate, Will Leaf, has made the same decision. "I'm excited by the possibilities of city government," writes Leaf, whose Mixed Use Party unsuccessfully fielded two council candidates last November.

Leaf emails that the Mixed Use Party has dissolved: "We decided that it would be more effective to work within the existing party system." But he's not done with politics: he says he plans to run as a Democrat against Sabra Briere in next August's First Ward primary.

Briere is not cowed. "I look forward to being on the ballot in August—," she emails, "and in November next year."

WCC upset: "I'm pretty stunned," emails WCC student Christina Fleming. "I truly was not expecting this ... I am currently a humble student who is now moving into an important position of authority."

"I was rather surprised myself," says retired WCC faculty union president Ruth Hatcher.

Fleming and Hatcher, along with longtime political figure Dave DeVarti, won seats on WCC's board of trustees in the November election. All three are perceived as sympathetic to the school's faculty in its conflict with WCC president Rose Bellanca. All say resolving that tension will be their first priority when they join the seven-member board in January, and all are critical of the outgoing board's vote to give Bellanca a modest raise and a one-year contract extension just before the election.

Hatcher says she has "a million questions for Rose," but just one "directive.

She needs to spend more time with the organized faculty, the union and the department heads. She has an obligation to work with them."

In an email, Bellanca says she thinks communications are already improving, mentioning "several occasions" when she met informally "with faculty [and staff] over coffee." Asked her thoughts on the election, she replies diplomatically, "I look forward to working together and hearing new ideas and perspectives as we collectively work to move the College forward."

Hatcher, though, sees a bumpy road ahead: "The faculty is up for a new contract next year," she warns, "and the negotiations could get very nasty."

Basketball turnaround: Abysmal as Michigan football looks right now, in the early 2000s men's basketball looked even worse. The Ed Martin scandal had wiped out the wins of the Fab Five era, and after years of losses two successive coaches, Brian Ellerbe and Tommy Amaker, were fired. Yet, just eight years after his hiring, John Beilein has the program back in national contention. In 2012, the Wolverines barely lost in the NCAA title game. Last year, a loaded Kentucky team edged Michigan in a regional final at the buzzer.

The Wolverines lost major league talent this year as Nick Stauskus, Mitch McGary, and Glenn Robinson left early for the NBA. But a solid core returns, and Beilein has half a dozen promising first-year players.

Experts predict the Wolverines will be good (top 25) despite the losses because, well, Beilein. The coach downplays great expectations, pointing out that a half-dozen first-year guys in the rotation is not a recipe for success. But a middle-of-the-pack finish in the Big Ten and an NCAA invite are reasonable goals. Privately, some close to the program expect more.

Still crusading: Roger Rapoport, a 1968 U-M grad, wasn't surprised this fall when angry and media-savvy undergrads helped to unseat athletic director Dave Brandon. As a *Michigan Daily* reporter, he himself helped unseat a regent, Eugene Power, over a perceived conflict of interest. "Students continue to have a great deal of power," Rapoport says of the anti-Brandon protests, "and in this case they used it wisely."

A journalist turned book publisher turned filmmaker, Rapoport cast local actors Alex Leydenfrost and Julia Glander in his second movie, *Pilot Error*, and shot scenes at Amadeus restaurant and the Quinn Evans architectural firm. The film will be at Quality 16 on Dec. 8, 9, and 11—theater owner Bob Goodrich (U-M Law, 1964) is co-producer.

To write the film, Rapoport drew on his book *The Rio/Paris Crash*, about the mysterious disappearance of an Air France plane in 2009.

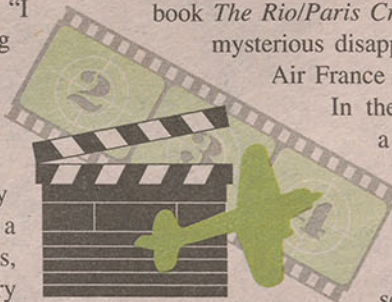
In the film version, a former *Daily* editor whose best friend vanished in the crash searches for answers. But Rapoport wanted to make more than a traditional thriller. When the real plane's "black box" was finally recovered, it revealed that pilot error had contributed to the tragedy, and the film warns about shortcomings in pilot training.

Rapoport doesn't seem nostalgic for the Ann Arbor of the turbulent '60s. As the Brandon affair proved, student protests still have power. And, he adds, "the current Cottage Inn is a big step up from the Cottage Inn of our day."

Too many helpers: Every other day of the year, local nonprofits providing food and housing are hungry for volunteers. But on Christmas Day, "We get booked up very quickly," says Mary Schlitt of Food Gatherers, which hosts a Christmas meal at the Delonis Center. An employee at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church says Christmas is one of just two days when its popular free breakfast may turn away volunteers (the other is Thanksgiving). At the Alpha House family shelter, volunteer coordinator Kathy Koehler says that plenty of Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare's Episcopal Church members have signed up to distribute gifts and serve meals.

Joan Miller of Meals on Wheels says that Jewish Family Services will continue its tradition of providing Christmas day drivers.

There's still plenty of room to help the other 364 days. "We're always looking for drivers the rest of the year," Miller says. "We would welcome help" other days (and nights) of the year, says Koehler of Alpha House. And the week before Christmas, Koehler adds, "We are looking for volunteers. Please get the word out."



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Cory McElmeel Principal, Skyline High School

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Visit A2schools.org for upcoming community engagement dates and locations.

"Being a principal in the Ann Arbor Public Schools is a privilege. I greet each and every day with a smile, knowing that I have a rare opportunity to help lead our teachers, work with our caring staff members and, above all, inspire our learners ...and future leaders." ~Cory McElmeel

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Inside Ann Arbor

Road Tax

When Ann Arbor property owners' winter tax bills arrive in December, they'll find an unfamiliar line item: a 0.5-mill levy for road repair.

The new tax is being collected for Washtenaw County, which expects to raise just over \$7 million. City treasurer Matthew Horning says \$2.5 million of that will come from Ann Arbor taxpayers. It is a one-time levy, and all revenue will be spent in 2015.

The new millage came about after months of frustration expressed by voters and city officials about roads mangled by the worst winter on record—and years of state neglect. Ward 3 councilmember Steve Kunselman says that during the August mayoral primary “every person talked about the roads everywhere we went.”

“The roads are a disgrace,” acknowledges newly elected mayor Christopher Taylor. But the city lacked the authority to pass a road millage that would take effect before 2016. So Taylor came up with another

solution: ask the county to do it. Taylor drafted a resolution, and, in September, the council passed it ten to one—only Ward 2 independent Jane Lumm opposed it.

Ypsilanti's city council and the Scio and Pittsfield township boards passed similar resolutions, and in October, the county board approved the tax by a vote of six to three.

Only last summer, commissioners had rejected a local road tax. Ann Arbor commissioner Andy LaBarre, who had initially opposed the idea, says the city council vote was a turning point for him. “When all ten Democratic councilmembers agree, it means something, given their ideological positions,” says LaBarre. He also “heard from a lot of constituents that they would agree to pay taxes [to fix the roads] because of the desperate need.”

Nevertheless, LaBarre sees it as local governments “shouldering the state's responsibility.”

Denise Donohue, director of the County Road Association of Michigan, says that when you start looking at the funding for road repair and maintenance in Michigan, “You get in the weeds real fast.” The simplified version is that Michigan's annual road repair budget is \$3.4 billion, with \$1.2 billion supplied by the federal government and \$2.2 billion by the state. The state revenues come from vehicle and fuel taxes, but Michigan has not raised



When city council couldn't get a road tax on the ballot fast enough, it asked the county to do it. The \$2.5 million collected this month will turn into paving in 2015.

its 19¢-per-gallon gas tax since 1997. An additional \$600 million for roads is raised annually through local millages, says Donohue, like Ann Arbor's thirty-year-old street resurfacing and reconstruction millage, which this year brought in \$10.5 million.

“The state agreed to [fund road repair] when they took gas tax and vehicle registration fees,” says county board chair Yousef Rabhi of Ann Arbor. “Roads are a nonpartisan issue, but the House still can't get [legislation increasing taxes and fees] passed.”

Rabhi notes that all the money the county collects from the new tax will be spent in



Engineer Mark Doman has a vision: a ski-lift-like system of gondolas wafting 3,500 people an hour between the U-M's Central and North campuses.

the municipality that contributed it. “That was a condition of my support,” he says. “The other thing I asked for was 30 percent of the total going into roads with non-motorized pathways, because as roads crumble so do our bike lanes.”

Ann Arbor's \$2.5 million will fund seven road projects in Ann Arbor next year: Newport north of Miller, Eisenhower from Ann Arbor–Saline Road

to State, State over the I-94 bridge to Ellsworth, Ellsworth from State to Platt, and stretches of Huron Pkwy. and Huron River Dr. Meanwhile, Ann Arbor's street millage will pay to rebuild Stone School Rd. from I-94 to Ellsworth, Geddes from Huntington to Huron Pkwy., and Packard from Stone School to Platt and from State to Stadium, along with other major road projects.

Won't all this cause gridlock?

“That is the least of my worries,” says Kunselman. “We've got to get it done.”

How's the tax going over with voters? “I haven't heard a tremendous amount, but what I've heard is overwhelmingly positive,” says Taylor. LaBarre reports his responses are “sixty-five to thirty-five [percent] positive. Nobody likes to raise taxes, but they say this is a good reason.”

“I've heard from a few people who're not excited about it,” says Rabhi, “and I've gotten emails from other folks who said it should have gone before voters. But most folks are supportive.”

In a November lame duck session, the state senate voted to increase the tax on wholesale gas and diesel fuels. According to a Senate Fiscal Agency analysis quoted in the Detroit Free Press, that would raise between \$781 million and \$1.5 billion extra per year for road repair. At press time, the state house had not yet taken up the bill.

Over the Top

Mark Doman thinks the future of mass transit in Ann Arbor is up in the air.

As the state's carnival/amusement and ski area safety manager, Doman knows a thing or two about ski lifts. And he says that what Ann Arbor needs, instead of a light-rail “connector” through town, is an aerial gondola: small cabins suspended from an overhead cable that will whisk riders

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Inside Ann Arbor

high above the congested streets between the U-M's Central and North Campus.

Tall and weathered—mostly from skiing—the lanky engineer has been promoting his idea to anyone who will listen. Meeting a reporter at Sweetwaters downtown, he comes armed with loose-leaf binders and a flash drive loaded with PowerPoint charts and photos.

The AAATA, the city, the DDA, and the U-M are already at work on their own plan—called the Connector, it even has its own website, aaconnector.com. It envisions a high-capacity "fixed guideway" (light rail or monorail) loop that would run all the way from the industrial park south of I-94 to Domino's Farms. Doman thinks that's overkill. "The way I see it," he says, "the Ann Arbor connector will be so expensive it will fizzle."

Using the Connector study's own data, Doman put together a chart that shows that the vast majority of the trips—more than 40,000 a day—would be between Central and North Campus. That's no surprise to anyone who's shared Fuller Rd. with the constant stream of U-M buses moving students and faculty between the campuses.

Doman himself used to drive a "blue bus" when he was in grad school. But he says buses and streetcars are too big for most Ann Arbor streets, and building new "guideways" would be prohibitively expensive—the study estimated the cost of building a light rail system would be more than \$60 million. He estimates that an aerial gondola system capable of lofting 3,500 people an hour between the campuses would cost about half that much. "You have your choice of cabin to get on," he says—all handicap accessible, and with onboard Wi-Fi. "It takes you from North Campus to main campus in eight minutes. Quick, no waiting."

How high up? "Typically forty feet. Out over the Huron River, maybe 100." Intermediate stops could be set up anywhere there's room for the cars to descend.

Currently Dolan sees it as starting at the C.C. Little building, going next to the Medical School (across from Angelo's), over Fuller Park and the river to the Bursley-Baits housing area, and ending at Pierpont Commons. "If there is a need," he says, "it could extend through North Campus to North Campus Research

Doman himself used to drive a "blue bus" when he was in grad school. But he says buses and streetcars are too big for most Ann Arbor streets, and building new "guideways" would be prohibitively expensive.

Complex." The less-traveled extensions north and south could be handled by buses, streetcars, or light rail.

Dolan has pitched his idea to everyone from U-M transit czar Eli Cooper to U-M planner Sue Gott. He says everyone tells him, "That's a really good idea. We should look at that further" ... But it is such a departure from what they're used to ... Transportation planners don't think of ropeways." Some also see the hybrid system he's proposing as a marketing problem, because once the gondolas were built it would be harder to get support and raise funds for the less-used ground system. A single system would be easier to pitch and fund.

Dolan says that "everybody's looking" at using gondolas for mass transit, mentioning Madison, Seattle, and Miami. "These things are just very common everywhere in the world," he says. "I'm convinced it makes sense. And I'm convinced Ann Arbor makes the most sense" for it—"the Huron River is a problem for anything more conventional. The ropeway just flies over the top."

Annexation Failure

"We have work to do with our community," AAPS superintendent Jeanice Swift says, "to see what they want in their schools."

In November, Ann Arbor voters decisively rejected a ballot proposal to annex the Whitmore Lake schools. Though the proposal passed overwhelmingly in Whitmore Lake, both communities had to approve the merger, so the plan to add more than 900 students and three buildings to the Ann Arbor district is dead.

"What I'm hearing from folks is that they did not reject the idea of Whitmore Lake," Swift says. "They rejected the deal the state was giving us. The financial deal



Ann Arbor's Glenn Nelson and Whitmore Lake's Jim Vibbart thought annexation would benefit both districts. Only Whitmore Lake voters agreed.

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Inside Ann Arbor

they were offered by the state [an extra \$100 a year for every student in the expanded district] wasn't incentive enough."

Proponents framed the annexation as a solution to a shrinking student base. "According to SEMCOG [Southeast Michigan Council of Governments], Ann Arbor's school-age population for 2015 to 2020 will see a 4.3 percent decline," says Washtenaw Intermediate School District superintendent Scott Menzel. "That seems likely given declining birthrates [during the recession]. Less people are being born than are graduating."

Swift believes that Ann Arbor can transcend that trend. "We are the economic hub of the region," she says. "I don't see a decline in enrollment going forward."

"The demographics do not include an accurate view of the future," agrees school board member Christine Stead. "Yes, the birth-rate has been declining, but Ann Arbor has been growing since 2010. Eighty percent of the people who moved to Michigan moved to our area."

In an email, trustee Andy Thomas concurs. "Ann Arbor is still a destination community for many people, due to the University and all the medical, engineering and high-tech jobs associated with it," he writes. "My guess is that Ann Arbor will have stable to slightly increased enrollment over the next five years."

Menzel agrees that there's reason for hope. Two large subdivisions already proposed for the northeast side promise to deliver more schoolkids—though just how many is unclear. "It depends on price of the houses," Menzel explains. "At the mid- to upper-price range, you end up with less students per household. At a lower cost, you get more students per household."

And increasing the population isn't the only way to grow enrollment. "It's a market share question," Menzel explains. "What percent of [the school district's] population is currently not attending their schools, and can they reverse that? It's already happening: their enrollment is up. They were able to recapture part of that market share through their 'schools of choice' program."

"Parents are looking for a quality education, which is becoming more and more challenging to find," Swift argues. "And that's what we offer in Ann Arbor, a top-quality education."

Ann Arbor has already won back some students—though not as many as Swift and the board hoped. The district opened 750 schools-of-choice seats last spring and, for budget purposes, assumed that it would fill 400 of them. This year's fall count found 16,815 students, up 366 students from last year.

Superintendent Jeanice Swift believes that Ann Arbor can transcend the downward trend in the school-age population. "We are the economic hub of the region," she says. "I don't see a decline in enrollment going forward."

"This will cause a revenue shortfall of approximately \$250,000," writes Thomas. "That is a significant number but not enough to wreck the budget. We have some time to make adjustments in spending to mitigate the effect."

"It's not a big, bad change," adds trustee Glenn Nelson. "It's more modest than usually happens in the budget. We have not had to use our short-term borrowing—which is a good sign. We were mentally prepared to use it to make payroll in late summer/early fall, but we didn't have to."

Nelson, annexation's strongest advocate, won't have to worry about those future budgets: he didn't run for reelection. Also stepping down is another supporter, Irene Patalan. They'll be replaced by Donna Lasinski, who was neutral

on annexation, and Patricia Manley, who opposed it. Although supporter Christine Stead won reelection, both she and Lasinski trailed annexation's most vigorous opponent, incumbent Susan Baskett.

Baskett believes annexation failed because "it wasn't persuasive. There was not enough substance there." While other trustees had doubts about the economics of annexation, Baskett alone saw an educational downside. "We have our own challenges I'd like us to focus on," she says. "It would have taken attention away from our own problems."

Baskett's was the top vote-getter among ten candidates, so it seems her opposition resonated with voters throughout the district. She also made racial representation an issue. Responding to an email in which Andy Thomas endorsed four white candidates, Baskett wrote:

"The recommendations would create a deep and powerful vacuum on the Board that is not reflective of the community. It would leave only one African American, Trustee [Simone] Lightfoot. Would this disregard for the voice of diversity adversely impact the hard work and academic progress we have made on behalf of our students over the past several years? I simply offer that it would."

Thomas says his endorsements were "based on who I thought would do the best job for all the students of Ann Arbor. One of the deciding factors for me was that several candidates (including Trustee Baskett) ran on an openly pro-labor slate. While I respect our union members, I think it is wrong to place the interests of unions above the interests of students."

In the end, Baskett's fears proved unfounded. Manley will join Baskett and Lightfoot as one of three African Americans on the seven-member board.

"We will have a presence," predicts Baskett. "It'll be harder to ignore issues related to the Ann Arbor [African American] community because we'll be

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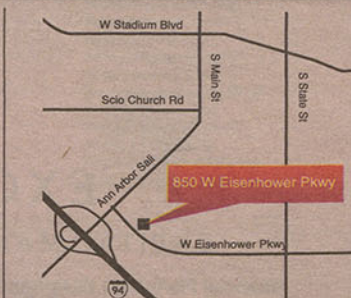


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Inside Ann Arbor

there.” But Baskett says the board still isn’t representative. “We don’t have any Asian Americans or a Latino or an openly gay person. And when was the last time we had an African American father on the board?”

Thomas isn’t buying. “I don’t believe board membership should reflect racial, ethnic, or gender quotas. But if anyone is truly concerned about whether or not the Board reflects the ethnic and gender makeup of the city, I would point out that we have no Chinese, Japanese, Pakistani, Indian (Asian), Native American, Hispanic, or Arab members—and that after January 1, I will be the only male.”

Baskett believes the idea of annexing Whitmore Lake to Ann Arbor is dead. “There are four people against annexation on the board. If they bring this up again, they’re going to have to persuade four doubters.”

Menzel says she needn’t worry. “We won’t discuss this with Ann Arbor again. We’re looking for other partners. Dexter, Brighton, Pinckney, and South Lyon are all possibilities.”

“The harsh winter that we had [last year] basically locked up the [Great] Lakes much longer than normal,” says Steve Gallagher of St. Marys Cement. “We’re all hoping this was a once-in-a-lifetime situation.”

Liberty—but he says his concrete sales were half what they normally would have been in October, because he’s having to turn down jobs for lack of cement.

“There is a shortage, not of concrete itself, but of cement,” says John Ciulis, the project manager for Ann Arbor developer Dan Ketelaar’s six-story apartment building going up at 618 S. Main, where Fox Tent & Awning used to be. Cement is the binder that turns sand and gravel into concrete, and concrete is the foundation—literally—of most construction.

“The shortage is an industry shortage,” says Steve Gallagher of Ontario’s St. Marys Cement Group, one of two major suppliers to southeast Michigan (the other is LaFarge, a French multinational with a distribution center in Detroit—they’re Paul Gott’s source). Gallagher says the problem isn’t

making cement but getting it where it’s needed. In Michigan, it’s usually shipped by water, but “the harsh winter that we had [last year] basically locked up the lakes much longer than normal ... We’re all hoping this was a once-in-a-lifetime situation.”

Ketelaar wants to start moving tenants into his apartments in June. That requires getting the building enclosed now so workers can work through the winter. Luckily, they poured the underground parking garage last spring, before the shortage hit. And “we’re using precast concrete now,” he says. All of the walls and floors are coming on semis, from Kerkstra Precast in Grandville. Ciulis says Kerkstra is so big that it’s near the top of the list when it came time to divvy up the concrete on hand (state road projects come first). “But other [companies] that don’t buy as much as we buy, they’re the ones that are having the problem.”

Pouring It Out


Thanks to last winter, Ann Arbor has a shortage of concrete.

“I have [employees] just sitting here, waiting for a load” to deliver, says Paul Gott of Gotts Transit Mix, a small Milan-based supplier of concrete to contractors in Ann Arbor and elsewhere. As we spoke, Gott was sending out a truck for a sidewalk job at Main and



MARK BIALEK

State road projects, like the Jackson Rd. reconstruction, have first call on the limited supply of concrete. It’s harder for little guys like Paul Gott, who’s seen his supply of cement—and his sales—cut in half.



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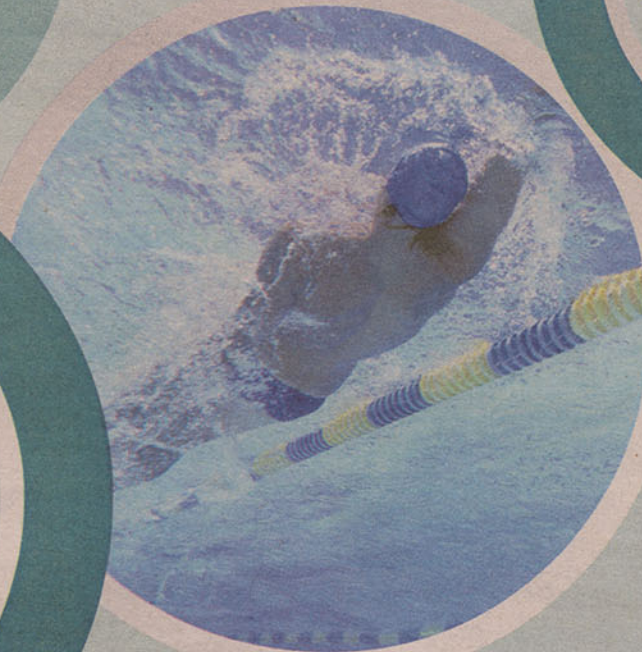
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Inside Ann Arbor

If you're a little guy, "You gotta beg," Ciulis says. "Normally when you've got this problem, you call them up today and say, 'I want some concrete on the job tomorrow.' They'll say, 'We'll be there.' Now you have to start planning two weeks in advance and say, 'Hey, I'm gonna need it two weeks from now,' and hopefully they'll accommodate you."

Dan DeGraaf, CEO of the Michigan Concrete Association, is optimistic that the crisis won't repeat itself next year. He says both St. Marys and LaFarge plan to increase their storage capacity and expand their fleets of trucks. And Superior Materials' Jeff Spahr predicts that this year's shortage won't last much longer. With the onset of winter, construction should slow down enough that suppliers will be able to "get caught back up."

So far, suppliers are honoring the prices they quoted before the shortage—"about a thousand dollars a truckload," according to local contractor Dave Duetsch. But they've also warned their customers to expect an increase next year. Duetsch and others are bracing themselves to pay about 10 percent more in 2015.

Heavenly Music

"What do you think the character of this piece should be?" asks Tom Strode, looking up from the piano in St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Answers come quickly from the young boys gathered round him. "Bold!" "Triumphant!" "Glorious!"



Now in its twenty-seventh year, Boychoir is one of a handful of choirs in the state to continue the ancient musical tradition of singing by boys with "unchanged voices."

Strode, the founder and director of the Boychoir of Ann Arbor, approves. "Be triumphant when you sing this," he exhorts.

Executive director Laura Dunbar listens intently to the children's sweet, almost unearthly rendition of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," its notes impossibly high.

"There's nothing," she says, "like the sound of a boy soprano."

Now in its twenty-seventh year, Boychoir is one of a handful of choirs in the state to continue the ancient musical tradition of singing by boys with "unchanged voices" (members' ages may range from nine to fourteen). Although

the tradition began in the church, and some Boychoir members also sing in their church choirs, not everyone is what Dunbar calls "faith oriented." She points out that the group brings together kids whose paths might never cross—"public, private, or homeschooled; boys of faith and boys of no faith."

of faith and boys of no faith."

December is a big month for Boychoir. The group will perform with the Ann Arbor Symphony at Hill Auditorium on December 12 and in the medieval-inspired sanctuary at the First Presbyterian Church on December 13 (see Events). In blue suits and ties or vestments, depending on the setting, they'll sing hymns plus some more lighthearted holiday favorites.

Luke Andoni-Savas, eleven, says the performances are good preparation for his future dreams. "I really want to be a musician—pop music," he says. "In high school, I aim to record a song." His friend Sebastian Berofsky, also eleven, says his family is musical. "I mostly love classical music. Bach is my favorite."

But fitting in the twice-a-week choir practices is not easy for today's over-scheduled kids. "I have a soccer conflict on Monday," says Peter Ghormley, thirteen, who attends St. Paul Lutheran School. "I have about five minutes to get ready." Choir founder Strode allows the boys to come a little late to rehearsal

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Inside Ann Arbor

if they're time starved. But he says that it's difficult growing the choir because many of the boys are active in theater and sports. He also has to contend with the perception that Boychoir is ... uncool. "What's really sad," says Strode, is that disparaging comments often come from athletic coaches, who encourage the boys to drop out.

About forty boys currently participate in Boychoir. The "treble choir" is limited to the best singers whose voices haven't changed, but the "performing choir" includes a few older boys, and also embraces a few beginning singers. Kids audition for Boychoir, but if they don't make it Strode encourages them to enroll in the beginners group. With practice, he says, most improve and go on to Boychoir.

"Boys, and girls, are fully capable of learning about the details and nuances of performances that adults might not think they could do," he says. "If they're intelligent and have some musical sense, you can train them to be very fine musicians."

Although Strode understands that boys can get wiggly and silly during rehearsals, he is clearly in charge. Says former choir member Keith Leonard, "He kept people in line, but you're going to have to if you have a bunch of eight- to twelve-year-old boys."

Strode regrets that the tradition of boys' soprano music is not well known in America. "A lot of people—when they hear a 'boy choir,' they associate it with the kiddie choir of their church—cutesy. That's not what this is at all. If you hear a boy choir singing and it's very trained ... it's just stunningly beautiful. There's nothing else like it on earth."

Life in Ann Arbor

Tim Athan



The stadium repurposed due to lack of interest.

question corner

Q. Are the traffic lanes of legal width on S. Division between William and Washington? Ever since the sidewalks were "improved" a number of years ago it has seemed impossible for three cars to be in their lanes when cars are parked at the curbs. Making matters worse is the lack of well-painted lanes.

A. Two years ago temporary lane markings were painted in anticipation of resurfacing. The resurfacing was delayed,

and meanwhile snowplows and traffic wore away the temporary markings.

The permanent markings were applied this September. Lane width is not codified by law; Ann Arbor's range from nine to twelve feet (planners debate the diverse effects of lane width, but it's generally agreed that wider lanes encourage faster driving). The new lanes on Division are about ten and a half feet.

Got a question? Email question@aaobserver.com.

calls & letters

Regent race corrections

"The Observer misquoted me," Ron Weiser said in a voicemail message. Our November feature on the regents election said that Weiser, one of two Republican candidates for the U-M's governing board, talked of "selling off the bus and food services" and quoted him as saying "there's no business where you can't save 5 percent" of its budget. He actually talked of "privatizing" those services, and of saving money in a bureaucracy, not a business. We apologize for the errors.

Weiser also disagreed with our statement that he wants to "implement" the state right-to-work law at the university. "Implementing is taking a posi-

tive action," he said. "I said we should adhere to the rule of law."

Incumbent Democrat Kathy White also emailed a correction. We had described her as a retired army lieutenant colonel; in fact, she noted, "I am an active reservist."

Regent elections usually track the partisan outcome higher on the ballot. But this year, Michigan voters split the ballot, with GOP governor Rick Snyder winning reelection handily, even as Democratic Gary Peters trounced Republican Terri Lynn Land for U.S. Senate. In an outcome that wasn't clear till the day after the vote, White and fellow Democrat Michael Behm narrowly won the two available seats, with Weiser finishing third by less than 5,000 votes.

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December: So much to do indoors & out in the parks

Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Arena is open! Grab your skates, or rent a pair from us, and enjoy skating in our open-air, covered arena. Activities include public ice skating, drop-in hockey and rental hours. The facility has a heated lobby, vending, restrooms and four separate locker rooms for hockey. Skate rentals available. 2781 Packard Rd., 734.794.6234. a2gov.org/buhr.

Join us Friday, Dec. 5 for Funky Frosty Friday at Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Arena. The first Friday of each month offers themed skating during general skate from 7:15-8:45 p.m. Dress up to win prizes for best costume! Dec. 5: Oldies Night. Rock around the clock to the early sounds of rock-n-roll. 2781 Packard Rd., 734.794.6234. a2gov.org/buhr. General admission rates apply.

Register for Session 3 of Learn-to-Skate and Beginner Hockey at Veterans Memorial Indoor Ice Arena. Jan. 26-March 21 (8 classes). \$72 resident/\$90 nonresident. Visit www.a2gov.org/parks and click the "I want to register" link. 2150 Jackson Rd., 734.794.6235. a2gov.org/vets.

Dive-in Movie at Mack. Bring your own inner tube and float in the pool as you enjoy a family friendly movie. Shows start at 7 p.m. and admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children and seniors. Saturday, Dec. 27 we're showing "Guardians of the Galaxy." Take part in the Dive-in Movie Challenge! Come to every dive in movie and be entered to win a free 2015-16 season pass for Mack Pool. 715 Brooks St., 734.794.6237. a2gov.org/mack.

Sign up for lifeguard recertification at Mack Pool. This recertification course results in the following American Red Cross certifications: Lifeguarding, First Aid, CPR and AED. This course will include a review in and out of the pool and both a practicum and written exam. Register by calling 734.794.6237 or go to Mack Indoor Pool. 715 Brooks St., 734.794.6237. Fee: \$100. a2gov.org/mack.

Session 1, Dec. 27 and Dec. 28
Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Sunday, 1-6 p.m.

American Red Cross Swim Lessons at Mack Indoor Pool. Group lessons are offered for children ages 6 months through adult beginners. Sessions G/I are offered Monday and Wednesday and sessions H/J are offered on Tuesday and Thursday. Cancelled lessons will be made up on the Friday of the week of the cancelled class. Session G or H - Jan. 5-29 and Session I or J - Feb. 2-27

Saturday ARC Swim Sessions

Session 3 - Jan. 3-Feb. 21

Registration will be accepted during any public swim time, by phone or online. 715 Brooks St., 734.794.6237. a2gov.org/mack.

Volunteers needed! Mack Indoor Pool Saturday Splash Day. 1:30-4:30 p.m. Dec. 20, Jan. 17. Join us for a fun-filled volunteer opportunity leading games and activities for kids both in and out of the water at Mack Indoor Pool. Set up and take-down times are included, and not all volunteers will need to know how to swim. We are looking for people who are comfortable interacting with children and the public. Bring a bathing suit for water activities (one-piece suits preferred). Email volunteer@a2gov.org or call 734.794.6445.

Buhr School Break Skating. Additional public skating sessions will be held the following days: Dec. 22, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31 from noon-2 p.m. Bring your own skates or rent from us. We have a heated lobby too! 2781 Packard Rd., 734.794.6234. a2gov.org/buhr.

Veterans School Break Skating. Additional public skating sessions will be held: Dec. 22, 11:10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 29, 11:10 a.m.-1:10 p.m., Dec. 30, 11:10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring your own skates or rent from us. 2150 Jackson Rd., 734.794.6235. a2gov.org/vets.



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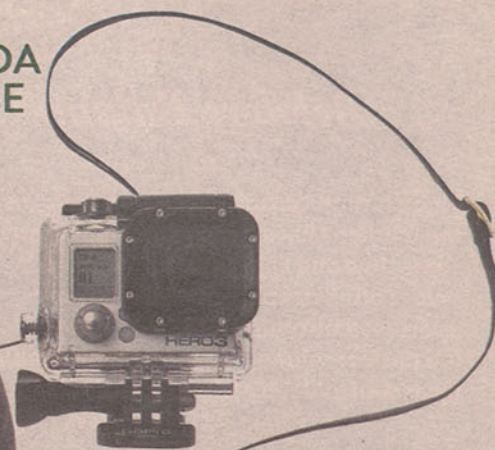
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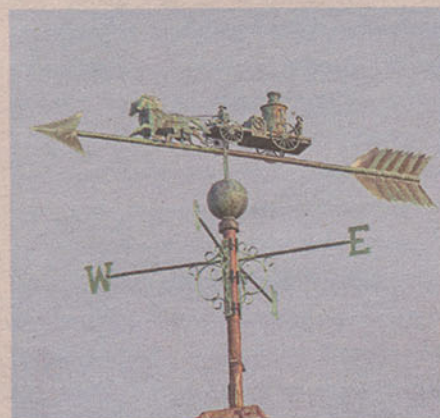
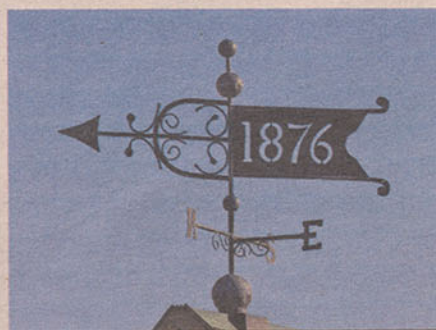


Outside

Weather Vanes

Blowin' in the wind

Next time you are taking a stroll downtown, look up at the top of the West Side Book Shop on Liberty, about half a block west of Main. At the pinnacle of the 1888 building is an ornate weather vane that features an elaborate "H." Ac-

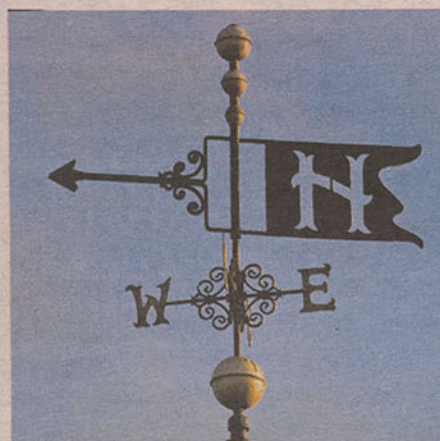


The weather vane atop the building housing the Arbor Brewing Co. integrates the date "1876" into its design. However, it actually came into being in 1983, when architect Don Van Curler engaged Ann Arborite Bil Mundus to create it. Mundus, who made weather vanes as a hobby, also created a galloping team of horses pulling a fire engine for the Hands-On Museum.

cording to Jay Platt, the owner of the shop, it was created for the Harrar family, the building's original owners. Platt explains that the current weather vane is an exact replica created and installed in the mid-1970s: when the Harrars sold the building, they took the original with them.

You'll find another weather vane atop the building housing the Arbor Brewing Co. at 114 E. Washington. This one integrates the date "1876" into its design. However, it actually came into being in 1983, when architect Don Van Curler engaged Ann Arborite Bil Mundus to create it. Mundus made weather vanes as a hobby.

Across the street at the Arena sports bar is another great weather vane: a magnificent cow etched in bas-relief. According to Grace Shackman's 1993 "Then & Now" article on the building, it sported a cow weather vane when Fred Hoelzle ran a butcher shop there from 1893 until 1926. The current one is a tribute to the original, placed there when Metzger's Ger-



man restaurant expanded into the space in 1991 (it's now on Zeeb Rd. in Scio Township).

On top of the Hands-On Museum, a galloping team of horses pulls a fire engine. Once again, we see the work of Bil Mundus. Mundus volunteered at the museum for a decade and told us he created this weather vane for it in the 1980s. The museum includes Ann Arbor's historic fire station, where Mundus's grandfather was fire chief from 1909 to 1939.

Downtown is certainly not the only place you can find weather vanes. Just around the corner from where we live west of town, a silhouetted sailboat, launched on high from the cupola of a neighbor's house, sails the skies through fair weather and foul.

—Bob & Jorja Feldman



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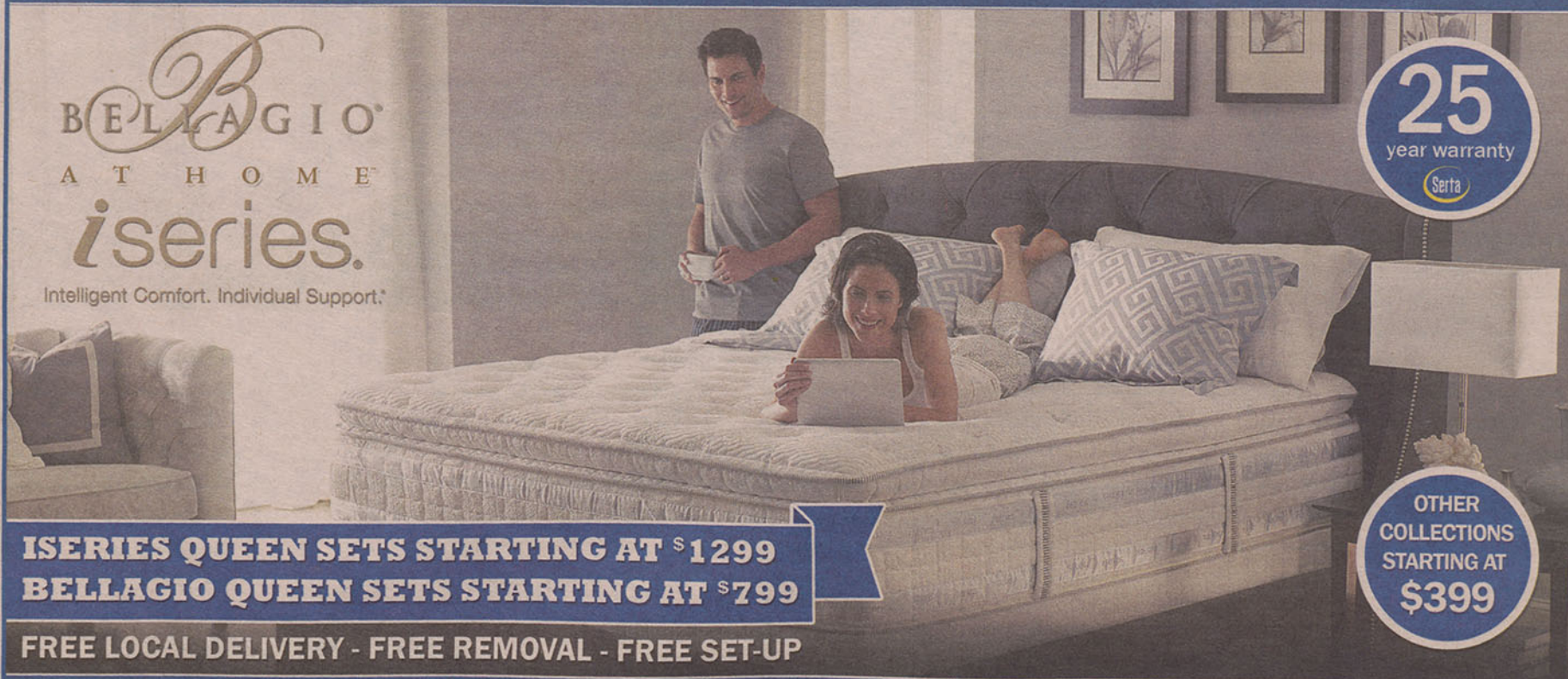
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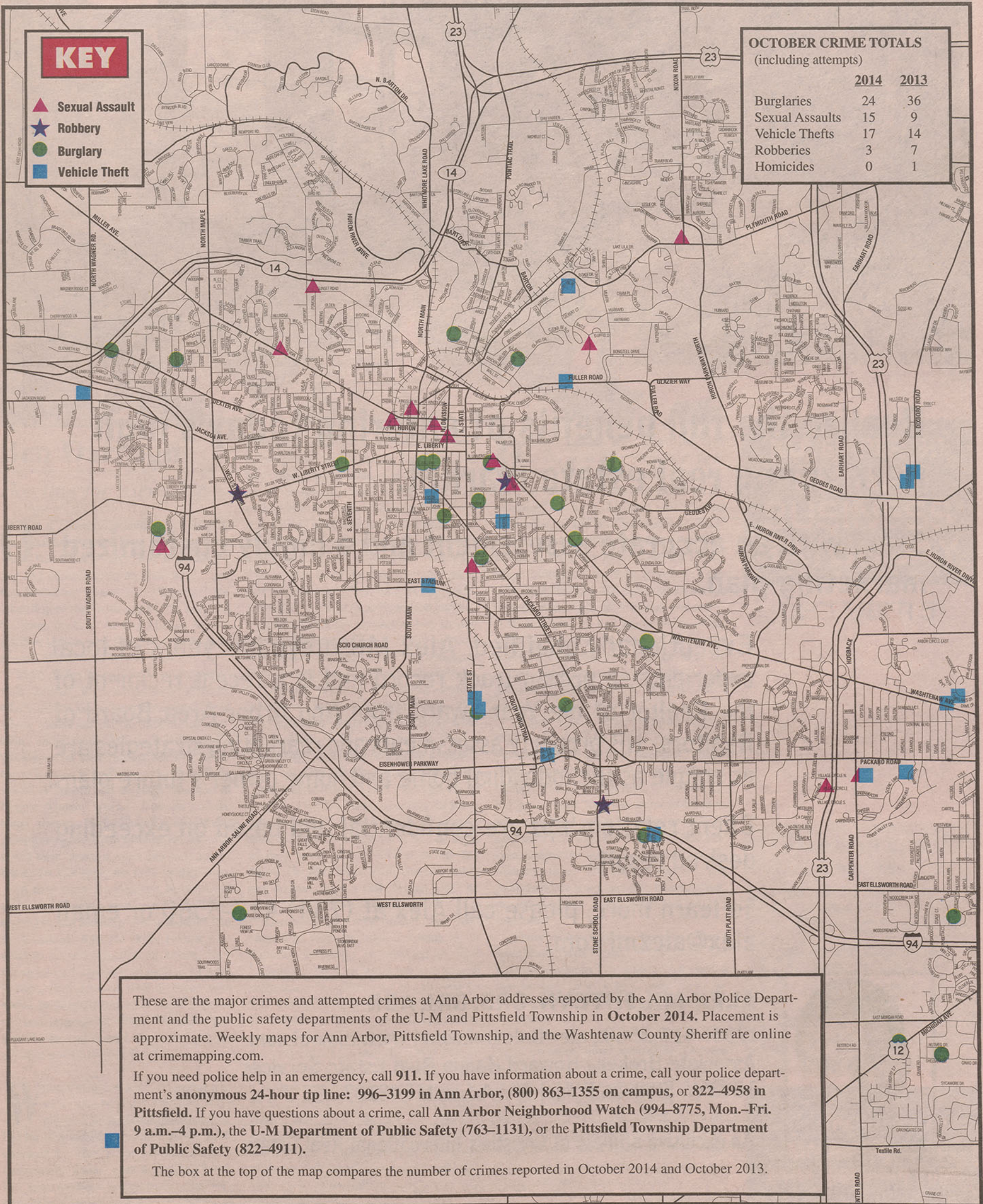


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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Ben Darragh

Bowling for friendship

On a Monday afternoon, a group of middle-school boys is bowling at Bel-Mark Lanes. “Way to go, man!” one kid compliments another who’s just knocked down several pins. “Thanks!” the other boy replies with a grin, his hands in his jeans pockets. At first glance, they’re just five kids having fun, but a closer look reveals they’re also hard at work.

Most of the boys have been diagnosed with autism, a developmental disorder which affects boys disproportionately, and whose symptoms include difficulties mastering social skills. This is Ben Darragh’s weekly social skills group, and one of today’s lessons is “offering an encouraging word.” A speech and language therapist at Clague Middle School, Darragh (whose name rhymes with “Sarah”) runs these groups as a private practitioner. He says that it will take “practice, over and over again” before the kids apply the skills on their own.

A trim thirty-six-year-old, brown-eyed and bearded with a gentle demeanor, Darragh says that learning “independence and socialization” tops the skills autistic kids need to be well-functioning adults. He’s trying to teach children struggling with the baffling disorder—as well as those with social language difficulties—how to reach out and respond to others. Darragh “just gets it—he understands the kids,” praises a dad of one of the bowlers.

When Darragh started the group four years ago, he chose a bowling alley because he needed a place to meet, but he quickly realized how much more engaged the kids became while doing a fun activity. Today, after a round of bowling, the boys move to a meeting room; they munch on Cheetos and sip soft drinks, as

Darragh leads a game focusing on “core conversation” skills. During the game, one boy talks about an archery contest he competed in. Another, who was given a card telling him to “make a connection,” says that he was once in a hot dog-eating contest. “How many hot dogs did you eat?” a boy with an “ask a question” card asks. The answer is, “I ate like fifty! No buns, just the hot dogs.” Yes, he tells the group, it made him really sick. Everyone laughs.

Darragh has to remind one boy to stay on topic during the game. “Do you know how hard it is to listen?” the boy demands. Darragh admits that it is indeed hard work.

Darragh holds up a plant to demonstrate what makes friendships grow. The boys take turns watering it and share what they’ve done in the past week to “feed a friendship,” including talking to someone at the bus stop and playing an online video game with a friend. Later, Darragh sits in a circle with the boys, and they throw a small squishy ball back and forth. “Where your eyes are, your brain will be,” he says, as they work on eye contact before the throw. He adds more balls, one at a time, and no one drops a ball. “Great job!” he says. “Next time we’ll try for five!”

Darragh’s own experiences help him empathize with the boys. Growing up in Superior Township, he attended St. Paul Lutheran School but struggled with speech difficulties: “I couldn’t say my r’s—butter was ‘buttah.’ It was very Boston sounding.” He laughs now, but he admits back then it wasn’t so funny. “I felt self-conscious and not understood ... and that’s not cool in middle school.” Happily, with the help of a skilled speech therapist, he was able to fix his problem before he entered Ypsilanti High. Later, when Darragh was studying education at Eastern, “I remembered my history, and I also knew that I enjoyed working with smaller groups of kids.” He went on for a master’s in speech and language pathology.

Darragh and his wife, Christine, live on the west side with their three young kids. Both are marathon runners, so “she takes mornings and I take evenings” to train, he says. An interest in meditation led him to become a Buddhist in college. He’s a member of the Zen Buddhist Temple; Christine attends Living Water Lutheran Church in Whitmore Lake with their children. He says sometimes his friends make light of his calm manner—“Oh, Ben’s being Zen again”—but in his work he finds that “learning to be quiet is a helpful skill. My first impulse is to facilitate, but at a certain point, being patient and letting things develop is important—even when it gets awkward.”

Clague school social worker Angela Warr says Darragh “stays calm in any situation—even the most stressful.” In addition to traditional speech and language therapy work, Darragh runs a peer mentoring group with Warr that pairs students in Clague’s two special-ed classrooms with volunteer mentors. Darragh gives the student volunteers some background on autism and says, “You train as you go.” The paired middle schoolers play board games, do art projects, or walk to McDonald’s together.

Many of his bowlers, he says, “don’t have friendships outside of the group, and it can be isolating.” He accepts that change can be very slow; it took three years for one on-and-off bowler to invite a friend to his house.

The group at Bel-Mark ends the day with one more round of bowling. Darragh notices one new kid hanging back and not talking much. Darragh quietly suggests to him that “sometimes a high five is a good way to encourage somebody in the group.” The quieter kid doesn’t take Darragh’s advice but instead offers the other kids a smile. Afterwards, Darragh says, “It’s about the little successes.”

—Shelley Daily

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Buttercup

The Christmas cow

Thanks to a life-sized, black-spotted fiberglass cow in their southeast-side front yard, sisters Terry and Sandy Karnatz have a daily reminder of their mother, Velma, and a special Christmas morning twenty-two years ago.

"Our mom was always talking about life on the farm—she grew up on one as a sharecropper in Hickoria, Arkansas—and how she loved cows," says Terry. "So I decided to pull a Christmas prank on her."

Terry sketched what she thought were cows at Domino's Farms, then built a wooden frame covered in chicken wire. A cattle rancher friend later told her that her result bore more resemblance to a female buffalo, and a return visit to Domino's confirmed her friend's observation—but by then "Buttercup" had already taken shape.

She worked in the driveway of their Marshall St. home. "It was freezing out-



MARK BIALEK

side, and I had to wear gloves," she recalls. "Man, was it cold!" She covered the chicken wire with fiberglass she bought from a boat shop and painted Buttercup white; Sandy added black spots.

On Christmas morning, they secured Buttercup to the roof of Terry's car and drove her across town to their parents' home on Morningside. The drapes were drawn in the front window, allowing the

sisters to surreptitiously position Buttercup on blocks in the front yard.

"After we finished unwrapping presents, I said, 'Mom, I think Santa left you one more gift,' and had her open the curtains," Terry recalls. "I never saw such a look on her face. She first thought it was a real cow and then realized it wasn't."

Moved to the back yard, Buttercup contentedly grazed air on Morningside until

Velma passed in 2013. She then returned to Marshall St., where she now resides in the company of a number of statues that Sandy has collected, including a tiger, turtle, dragon, owl, cat, dog, and Virgin Mary.

This past summer, a life-sized ceramic alligator appeared in the yard, courtesy of a neighbor who found "Al" in his dad's barn. The sisters periodically move Al and Buttercup around the yard. Sometimes Al is positioned coming out of the arbor vitae as if to attack; other times he and Buttercup nuzzle nose to nose.

Terry says that quite a few people stop, and some drivers hit the curb when they're rubbernecking to get a better view of Buttercup. A woman who runs a day care down the street sometimes brings her young charges to visit. Like Velma, some elderly neighbors are especially fond of Buttercup, nostalgically recalling their days of farm living.

True to her holiday heritage, "last year we put Christmas lights on her with a battery pack that lasts about a month," says Terry. "We'll do the same this year."

—Anita LeBlanc

A Place to Lay Their Heads

How my son adopted an African village

For the fourth time I picked up the ringing phone, praying this time the connection would work. "Sebastian?" I said loudly, knowing that if a connection failed this many times in a row, my son had to be calling from Africa.

He greeted me quickly—we both knew we might get cut off any moment—then said, "Mom, I need to build a children's home here. These children have no one and nowhere to go." When the Peace Corps sent Sebastian to Benin, we had to search for it on a map. A tiny sliver of land in West Africa, nestled between Togo and Nigeria, it changed his life, and ours.

Sebastian was posted to Ouèssè, a small town in the interior that had no running water and no electricity. But, amazingly, the town was near a cell-phone tower, and a local bar had a generator where he could pay to charge his phone.

The only vegetables available in the market were onions, peppers, and tomatoes, and protein was hard to come by. Sebastian would often buy a leg from a "bush rat," with the hair still on it. So I'd send him food packages. I numbered the boxes, and only about one in three got to him. One that did had some precooked bacon. To go with it, he bought an egg—it cost fifty cents, about a day's worth of his Peace Corps pay—and told me, "It felt like I was at Weber's!"

When he called that day six years ago, local officials had just saved seven Togolese children from being trafficked for forced labor. A few years earlier, a UNICEF report had estimated

that 200,000 children a year were trafficked across national borders in west and central Africa. Though national governments were stepping up efforts to stop it, no one in Ouèssè was prepared to assist the slaves who were rescued.

Sebastian's friend Victor Kinmagbahohoue was called in to help the Togolese children, who ranged in age from five to eleven. Sebastian went along. He was appalled to see them pulled out of cells in a local jail and pushed forward one at a time to be interviewed. "They need a home, not a jail cell," Sebastian told me.

In August 2008, he began fund-raising to build the children's home. Back in Ann Arbor, we helped by putting fliers in the bulletin at our church, Christ the King, and getting the word out to friends. By November, he had raised the \$30,000 he needed to start building the Center for Children in Difficult Situations—in French, *Centre d'Accueil et d'Ecoute des Enfants en Situation difficile*, or CAEES.



COURTESY SEROMIK FAMILY

Victor Kinmagbahohoue and Sebastian Seromik were dismayed to find children rescued from human traffickers in the local jail.

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My Town

CAEES inaugurated its children's home in August 2009. Amazingly, my husband Gary was able to join a mission trip to Ghana at the same time, and traveled to Benin for the ceremony. The home provides short-term shelter for trafficked children, victims of abuse, and other children in vulnerable situations, and long-term care for orphans.

Sebastian came back to Michigan that September. When Gary and I took him to dinner at Red Robin, he barely ate half his hamburger, and was shocked to see us finish meals that in Ouèssè, he told us, could have fed two families.

Victor now runs the CAEES home. Sebastian is in grad school at Yale, studying social enterprise. But his work in Africa is far from done. He started a nonprofit, Dagbé, to support the home and the children who live there.

It has been a struggle. In addition to his own schooling, a workday for my son now consists of figuring out how to help

pay to house and educate a little girl who was rescued from a situation of trafficking and sexual exploitation, or to support the infant who was found abandoned, barely alive, in a trash heap.

Since August, CAEES also has been conducting an Ebola prevention and education campaign, informing people in Benin how the virus is spread, and what precautions they can take to avoid infection. Neighboring Nigeria was declared Ebola-free in October; to date, no cases have been confirmed in Benin.

Sebastian's heart was enlarged by his Peace Corps experience—it now houses a whole village in Benin. As I have watched him pour heart, soul, and savings into Ouèssè, there have been times I wished he had picked an easier career. But then I remind myself that he willingly chose this path, knowing where he was needed the most. Though it is not an easy life, I can join my son in saying it is rich and satisfying each time he gets a phone call informing him that yet another child has found a home, or has returned home, with the help of Dagbé.

—Ana Luisa Seromik

Habitat Chips In

Retiring my elderly appliances

It seems my appliances and my two cats have grown old along with me. When I moved into my north-side cottage in 1992, the previous owner bequeathed me a new roof, fridge, stove, water heater, and middle-aged furnace.

While friends complained about expensive home repairs, I smugly carried on with no repairs for all these years. I'm of the generation that expects everything to last forever if proper maintenance is done. Then last summer came leaks in the roof. Living on Social Security and a bit of freelance writing, replacing a roof was beyond what I could afford. Finally, I negotiated with Sheriff-Goslin roofers for installment payments.

During the roof scare, I'd heard that subsidies were available to low-income home owners from city, county, and state agencies—and, inveterate researcher that I am, I contacted them all. Nothing was available for roofs. But I did run across a website for Habitat for Humanity with a box that announced the availability of free refrigerators for low-income folks.

A year ago my elderly fridge had given out. Alas, Ted Lane, the inexpensive old appliance fix-it guy, had retired, so it had cost \$300 for a Sears repair. I wondered what I'd do the next time it froze everything.

Then I saw that surprising notice. Wasn't Habitat's business just to build and rehab houses?

I decided to apply for a fridge, and I was accepted. Shortly a new one arrived, and the wheezing ancient one was carted away—though it was still working, sort of.

Later I learned that so far 1,500 have been delivered by Lowe's thanks to Habi-

tat's participation in DTE's energy saving program.

That prompted me to check Habitat for other services. Hey, they offer a free furnace inspection.

Patrick, a seasoned repairman from Habitat's contractor, Colonial Heating & Cooling, said he'd never seen a furnace so old. He advised me that some nonessential parts were crumbling but said it would still function. The next day when the blower turned on, the heat did not. Patrick answered my call within half an hour, got it going, but said he'd better call the boss.

They recommended replacing the furnace and the water heater, since it was likely they'd keep failing. Turns out that through Habitat I could purchase both a new furnace and water heater for \$40 a month for three years—if I also volunteered for eight hours for Habitat. That expense added up to far less than the whole caboodle's retail price.

Next I considered the stove. It was down to two functioning burners and sometimes wafted a faint smell of gas through the kitchen from an extinguished pilot light.

I gently suggested to a few friends to watch for a good used stove.

My young neighbor across the street, Karla Velikan, alarmed by the gas odor, told me that finding me a used range during her frequent visits to Habitat's ReStore—their recycle warehouse—would be her mission in life. A resourceful friend, contractor Ivano Zamperla, said he might run across one during his renovations. Sure enough, in two weeks he'd found one, free, nicer than my original, and installed it snugly between my cabinets.

That's how, thanks to Habitat for Humanity and friends, I came to acquire a fridge, a stove, a furnace, and a water heater at almost no cost within three months. Of course, I now expect that my cottage's newly refurbished infrastructure will last as long as I do.

—Bertie Bonnell



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Hieftje was mayor for fourteen years. Taylor says he'll "be taking it one term at a time."

J. ADDRIAN WYLIE

EXIT JOHN HIEFTJE. ENTER CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR.

by James Leonard ◀.....▶ **ANN ARBOR'S LONGEST-SERVING MAYOR LOOKS BACK—AND ITS NEWEST MAYOR LOOKS FORWARD.**

"I was very open in 2012 about why I ran for another term," says John Hieftje the day after the November election confirmed Christopher Taylor will succeed him as mayor. "I wanted to make sure the city got through the recession and [city administrator] Steve Powers got a good base to build on for success here."

Two days away from leaving office after fourteen years, the outgoing mayor is equally open about why he decided not to run again. "I was out on a wilderness trip

in 2013, and I said I want to do more of this and less of that—and I also began to lose patience, not with the public but some councilmembers.

"There was a lot of BS at the table, and I got really tired of that," Hieftje continues, his eyes flashing. "It wasn't fair to the people for me to continue in the job when I wasn't going to put up with that anymore. And you have to put up with it. You don't have a choice. I was pretty darned patient, but at the end I was reluctant to take it. I wanted to say, 'Come on! Get real!'"

interviewed in a city hall conference room, Hieftje looks very relaxed but wholly engaged. He acknowledges that the local Republican Party's demise and a council of united Democrats helped him accomplish his goals for much of his administration.

He also admits that unity didn't last. "There are different factions. Council generally divides on the issues. For example, there's a clear division on development, for example over [the high-rise going up at] 413 East Huron."

Hieftje says this split reflects citizens' attitudes—to a degree. "About thirty percent of the people don't want anything to change—just leave it the same, and don't mess with it! And a solid half of [that group] want to go back to the seventies. I was born here, and I was here in 1970. I don't know that I want to go back, when so many things are better now."

The outgoing mayor believes the split could heal under the new mayor. "Bringing council together will be easier now because I became a target for a couple of councilmembers who need somebody to rail against. Not that it bothered me, but it was a distraction for the other councilmembers. Hopefully that's over with, and [Taylor] doesn't become a target."

In a downtown café early the next morning, looking very alert and equally engaged, Christopher Taylor says he doesn't entirely hold with the idea of council factionalism. "There are people who tend to agree with each other more than with other people, but is there an organization? There's no vote selling and no vote trading, and those are

hallmarks of faction."

With everyone on council either a Democrat or an independent, "we don't have public institutional reasons to fight," continues the incoming mayor. "I may disagree with a particular member about issues, but that doesn't prevent me from working with that member on other issues. For example, people who tend to be on different sides can come together on traffic calming or urban forest management."

That said, Taylor agrees Hieftje became a target—like Hieftje, he won't name names—but he absolves the outgoing may-

or of responsibility. "I've been [on council] since 2008, and throughout the entirety of that time he treated people with dignity, respect, and patience. When somebody who treats people with dignity, respect, and patience becomes the target for nasty personal attacks, I don't blame the recipient."

The new mayor believes he has "the temperament, experience, and judgment necessary for the job. A leader's temperament is deeply important to how they get things done and how they work with people they agree with and don't agree with."

That's true, but, even after exhibiting pervasive cool for six years on council, how Taylor handles the heat of leadership remains to be seen—especially if he too becomes a target.

Council unity for much of his administration surely helped Hieftje accomplish what he considers his most significant legacy: shrinking city government from more than a thousand employees to fewer than 700.

"The bureaucracy was out of control in the eighties and nineties," Hieftje says. "They just kept hiring people. I said at a December 2000 budget meeting, before I was even mayor, that we've got to start to whittle this down. The four Republicans on council were all for it, though I don't think they wanted to cut as much as we did."

"In the old days, Democrats would stand up for the fire department, and Republicans would stand up for the police department, so it was impossible to make cuts," he recalls. "Council had to come together to get it done. Maybe it's true that you needed a Democratic mayor to do it, but I credit city council and [former administrator] Roger Fraser, who carried it out."

Hieftje strongly defends the reduction against those who say it went too far. "The only thing we don't do the same way is pick up leaves—and there was an amazing amount of rancor over that. But almost all cities have abandoned the old method now. It was hard on the streets, the equipment, and the people."

He admits leaf pickup wasn't the only source of complaints. "One thing that raised people's ire was we changed the mowing schedule in the parks [from every seventeen days] to twenty-four days [during the recession], and the grass would get really long. But that was reversible, and we haven't heard a complaint about the grass in the parks for two years."

What about snow removal? "The city's never been good at that," the Ann Arbor native acknowledges. "But last winter it was really good, even though it was a bad winter." He credits the administrator—"Powers came to Ann Arbor after fifteen years running Marquette County, so he knows about snow removal."

Hieftje also rejects charges that the fire department shrank too much. "That's a hard argument to make. We now have a system where fire departments from all around are coming to help, and we're going to help them. And we have far, far fewer fires—60 or 70 percent less than the seventies. The [Ann Arbor] department hooks up to a hydrant about twelve times a year."

EXIT JOHN HIEFTJE ENTER CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR.

After dropping more than 300 employees, the outgoing mayor now believes "the city needs about twelve more employees. The city put three beat cops downtown last year, and they could use three more to help with nuisance issues."

"It's aggressive panhandling, not crime," Hieftje hastens to add. "We're probably going to end the year with the lowest crime rates that anyone here has ever seen. Part One crimes [homicide, rape, assault, robbery] are down about 14 percent from last year, and last year was the second lowest year for crime ever."

Now that property values and tax revenues are rebounding, Hieftje believes the city could use more than cops. "We need some project managers. The North Main Task Force completely occupied all our project ability. We can't look at three different projects at the same time now. And planning could use one too. So maybe it's only six" more employees.

"I could see the case for more police officers," says incoming mayor Taylor. "I haven't seen a case made for growth in the fire department." With the city looking for a new fire chief, the message is clear: applicants will need to work with what they have.

Despite his argument for very limited staff growth, Hieftje doesn't regret shrinking city government. "If we hadn't done it then, we would have had to do it all on the fly [during the recession]. Then we'd have been cutting with a cleaver rather than a paring knife, and it would have been pretty ugly."

Taylor uses a different word. "If it hadn't happened long in advance of the recession, there would have been catastrophic service problems."

Cities that didn't shrink their bureaucracies before 2008 either cut services or raised taxes after the recession hit, and many had to do both, while Ann Arbor, as Hieftje likes to boast, raised taxes only once the whole time he was in office—when the city took over responsibility for sidewalk maintenance in 2012.

While the number of city employees shrank, the number of citizen emails increased gigantically. Hieftje calls that the biggest change in the mayor's job during his tenure.

"When I got on council [in 1999], email was minor," Hieftje says. "But that really changed. A person is much more likely in a wired town like Ann Arbor to dash off an email than write a letter, so you have a whole lot more communication with residents on a whole host of issues."

"It can be episodic," he explains. "Some days, I'll get two or three. Some days, if

there is an issue that's burning, I might get forty or fifty. It can bog you down. I try to answer all of them, but I probably miss 10 to 15 percent."

Hieftje is the first mayor to draw a full-time salary—but he says he's not the first to put in a lot of hours. "If you look back, Mayor [Ingrid] Sheldon was the bookkeeper for the [Huron Valley Tennis] Club and spent maybe a couple hours a week on that, and Mayor [Liz] Brater was here every day. The pay went up from \$17,000 to \$43,000 annually, but it was more of a recognition that this [job] was eating up your time."

"But the mayor doesn't need to put in forty hours every week," the outgoing mayor adds. "In August, nobody comes to see you, the phone doesn't ring, and you don't get emails. But in the times that there is a big issue, or you're getting ready for the budget, the mayor needs to be available and ready to go. I found out very, very quickly I couldn't do my old job [selling real estate]."

Taylor argues the mayor's job "is not a full-time job if you mean eight hours a day, five days a week. Look at the [city] charter: it's a weak mayor/strong administrator model. The mayor has a certain number of formal duties, but the rest is soft power: meeting with people and building coalitions."

"Plus, I'm fortunate enough to have a job that is very flexible," he continues. "I'm a lawyer who works on Main St., which is just a hop, skip, and a jump away from city hall. I don't go to court, and my schedule is in many respects my own."

With the decline of the two-party system, the ward political organizations that once connected residents to city hall also declined or disappeared altogether. Though email compensates, Hieftje believes talking "to a lot of people" is more important. "That's what I do. I have a lot of lunches, and I talk on the phone with a lot of people. I'll ask them about an issue, and half of the time they don't even know what it is!"

"That tells you something," the outgoing mayor explains. "If it's not a big deal, do you really need to do something, or is it politically driven? That goes on all the time, and some of [the citizens who contact the mayor] have allies on council, so you have to be able to decipher that as well. You have to be able to figure out what is an agenda being driven by a small group. Neighborhood groups are not as powerful an influence as people think."

The outgoing and incoming mayors agree on what is a big deal: the dreadful shape of the roads.

"That's the biggest problem, and it's not just Ann Arbor's problem," says Hieftje. "That's what most people are focused on. We've been doing a lot of work lately, the maximum amount possible the last few years, and we're coming back. But if we're going to sustain that, the state needs to step up to the plate."



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	1 Bluemercury: Pre-sale Party: exclusive offers and deluxe samples V2V: Nic and Zoe Trunk Show—final day			4 Paper Source: Holiday Giftwrap Workshop, \$28 per person. (Register in-store or online.)	5 <i>Celebrate the week! Happy Hour:</i> Bigalora 2-6p Zola Bistro 4-5p	6 Bluemercury: Pre-sale Event The North Face: VIPeak Bonus days (thru Dec. 8) Sur La Table: Cooking Class: Holiday Soups
7 Anthropologie: Children's Crafting Workshop, 1-4p V2V: Enjoy a relaxing mini-massage in-store while you shop, 3-5p	8 J.Jill: Looking for a new holiday outfit or great gift for a special lady? 25% off entire purchase (thru Dec. 14)		10 Sur La Table: Cooking Class: Winter Favorites with Le Creuset + Free Covered Baker (\$79.95 value), 6:30p	11 Bluemercury: Annual Holiday Shopping Party, 2-9p (10%-20% off) V2V: Happy Hour: receive a mini-massage in-store, 5-7p	12 Strolling Singers: U of M a cappella group, Amazin Blues, 6-8p	13 Paper Source: Holiday Giftwrap Workshop Strolling Santa: Selfies & Candy Canes! 1-4p Strolling Singers: The Cass Ambassadors, 6-8p
14 Strolling with St. Nick: Candy canes and "selfies" with Santa, 1-4p	15 V2V: Free People Event: free gift with any Free People purchase				19 J.Jill: 30% off entire purchase (thru Dec. 21) Strolling Holiday Carols: The Arbor Consort, 6-8p	20 Strolling Santa: Selfies & Candy Canes! 1-4p Strolling Holiday Singers: Friends Choir, 6-8p
	22 Sur La Table: TWO DAY CAMP (1) Kids Holiday Cooking Camp, 10a Teens Holiday Cooking Camp, 2p (Register in-store or online)	23 Sur La Table: TWO DAY CAMP (2) Kids Holiday Cooking Camp, 10a Teens Holiday Cooking Camp, 2p (Register in-store or online)			26 Brooks Brothers Flatiron Shop: Semi-Annual Sale begins—save up to 50%	

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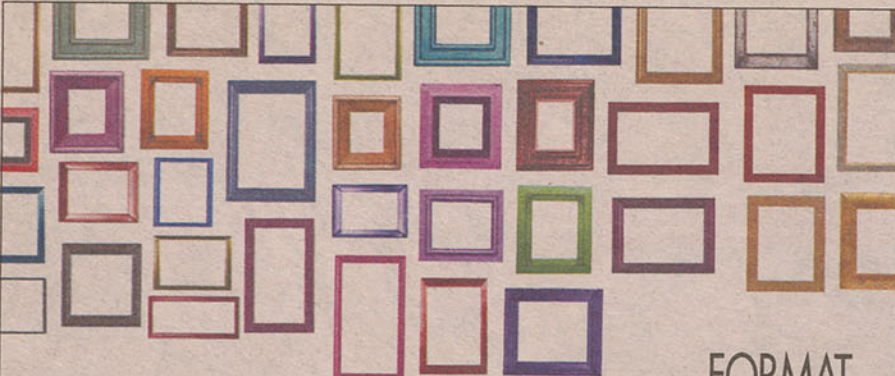
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"Our biggest challenge is always balancing resources with needs," says Taylor, "and our resources are always going to be insufficient to match our needs. Our roads are as they are [because of] insufficient aid from the state and federal government." The roads' condition is so desperate that in September, council asked the county to impose a one-time tax to make up some of the deficit; it will appear on this month's property tax bills (see Inside Ann Arbor, p. 13).

Taylor sees roads as part of "a pervasive problem: transportation. That's where people's quality of life gets most impacted by what we do and how we do it."

"Future planning will revolve around transportation," Hieftje predicts. "The city is growing jobs. We've seen traffic go way, way up, but we haven't gained the population. We had 100,000 people in 1970, and we're at about 117,000 now. The traffic is all because of jobs."

★★★
Will a train station happen in his first term? "I hope so," says Taylor.
★★★

"We don't have room for more cars," he continues. "We're ten years away from gridlock in a lot of places. We need to keep working on expansion of transit. I believe we need commuter trains."

Hieftje says he's not alone in this belief. "The Regional Transit Authority [of Southeast Michigan] hired [former AAATA director] Michael Ford to run it, and they are probably going to go out for funding in 2016. If that is successful, their plan is to extend transit all through the four counties: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw."

"MDOT believes in it to the point where they bought a train that's all paid for by Amtrak money—\$400 million dollars' worth of all new stuff, running on all new tracks past all new gate crossings. We're already the busiest train stop in the state."

Count Taylor as a believer. "We have transportation projects that we can work towards, and there's money and political will to work with others."

Those others will likely put in most of the money. For example, the incoming mayor says the proposed new train station that's currently being studied "will be paid for largely with federal dollars. The figures from earlier on in the process thumbnailed the station at \$50 million. That means a \$10 million match. I would expect MDOT would play a role, that the AAATA, if it's a multimodal station, will play a role, that if the station were a demonstrable benefit to the university, the university would play a role. I expect, too, the city would play a role."

Beyond cost, location's been a sticking point for the new station. Some push for the city parkland now used as a university

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parking lot on Fuller Rd. near the U-M Hospital, while others argue for staying at the current spot on Depot St.—and DTE's recent statement that it might allow use of a part of its property across the tracks from the current station could make that spot more attractive.

Taylor won't pick a favorite yet. "For me [location] is a question of practicality. Engineers understand how people come in and out of stations, what bus access is necessary, what pedestrian access is necessary. When we have designs for the two competing sites and the technical analysis on which one will work best and which one will provide the best ancillary development opportunities, [I'll say which] I'd prefer."

Will this happen in his first term? "I hope so," replies the incoming mayor. To make it happen, Taylor says, he'll "continue to advocate for it and stress its importance for the city's long-term future"—in other words, he'll use the mayor's "soft power."

The similarities between the outgoing and the incoming mayor are striking. Both are long and lean, though Taylor is longer, and both smile often and easily, though Hieftje seems much more relaxed. Hieftje was born here, while Taylor moved here for school, but Taylor married into a native family and works for an established Ann Arbor law firm, and his professed love for his adopted town seems as genuine as Hieftje's.

Their differences are equally striking. A very successful politician who knows municipal government so well he teaches it at the U-M, Hieftje is at heart a salesman who truly loves his product. Taylor is at heart an attorney who persuades through reasoned discussion.

Hieftje's passionate advocacy helped him accomplish his goals—which in addition to the staff cuts included the Greenbelt and downtown rezoning. But it also alienated some folks along the way, and helped make him a target.

Taylor's cooler approach could accomplish as much while alienating fewer people, but much depends on who's on council and active in the community. Because, as Taylor notes, just treating people with dignity, respect, and patience is no guarantee that disagreements won't become personal.

The outgoing mayor has simple advice for the incoming mayor: "Keep being Christopher Taylor. He's got a really good handle on everything, and I love his attitude. He's so open, so willing to discuss anything with anybody. He's a good man for the job."

As for Hieftje, "I'm going to keep my gig at the U, but I'm looking for a job. I'd like something in energy, environment, maybe something in human services. I want to stay in town, and I want to take my time and not take the job unless it's something I believe in."

The outgoing mayor served an unprecedented seven terms. How many for the incoming mayor? "I'll be taking it one term at a time," says Taylor. ■

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ANDREI S. MARKOVITS is an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and the Karl W. Deutsch Collegiate Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies at the University of Michigan. He has published prolifically on German and European politics, and sports.



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A TEAM OF THEIR OWN

Huron/Skyline's new women's ice hockey team—
and the girls who went before them

BY SHELLEY DAILY

Some glide on their skates and others wobble, but in early November members of the new Huron/Skyline women's high school hockey team are finally on the ice for their first week of practice. As Huron sophomore Miah McCallister takes a break on the bench, she smiles behind her face mask. "I didn't realize how much fun it would be!" she says. New to hockey and the first in her family to try the sport, she's among eighteen young women from the two schools on the inaugural combined team.

"It's long overdue," says Sandy Hurd, coach of Pioneer's decade-old women's team. Hurd led the effort to form the new team with a group of parents, students, coaches, and the three schools' athletic directors.

The high cost of ice time and finding enough players to form the starter team were obstacles. Since women's hockey is a club sport, the team receives no funding from the schools. Families must pay out of pocket—around \$1,200 each—for the November-to-February season. But now, says Hurd, the high schools "have a place for all girls to play."

"I've never seen schools come together like this—for the love of the sport," says Alona Henig, a Community High senior. Henig played last season on the Pioneer JV squad, which was created as a feeder for the new Huron/Skyline team. After aging out of her Ann Arbor Amateur Hockey Association girls' travel team when she turned fifteen, she missed the sport's "perfect mix of aggression, grace, and skill."

Skyline freshman Megan Taylor also played more competitive travel hockey, but says it "became stressful and expensive." She's relieved to have more time for academics and says she looks forward to the "school spirit and sense of pride" that comes from playing for her school. Plus, she says she thinks it's pretty cool that "it's a hard-core sport."

Kate Hallada Begeman, fifty-three, remembers when she was "the only girl" who played hockey in Ann Arbor. She grew up across the street from Las Vegas Park, and when the fire department flooded the field each winter, she played there with her older brother and his friends. Her father took her figure skates to the sporting goods store to grind down the toe picks for makeshift hockey skates. "I'd

wait until they needed somebody—until they'd let me play," she recalls.

For years, she says her passion for hockey "was my own little secret." But in junior high, Begeman saw a photo of the

Kate Hallada Begeman, Fifty-three, remembers when she was "the only girl" who played hockey in Ann Arbor.

Brown University women's hockey team on a magazine cover and decided she too could play for an Ivy League school. After graduating from Huron in 1979 she went to Cornell, where she became the first girl from Ann Arbor to play college hockey.

Two girls skated with an AAAHA boys' team in the late 1970s. Kathy Issel and Kathleen Brophy were five or six years old

When she settled in Ann Arbor in 1990, she recalls, "I thought Michigan was like Canada," where there's "a girls' team on every corner." So "it was an eye-opener" for her to find that most local girls had no place to play.

By the late 1990s, McDowell made the AAAHA girls' program a reality—even writing a personal check for more than \$10,000 to guarantee ice time. McDowell also helped start a short-lived Huron High women's team in 1997, but with pre-dawn ice times, low turnout, and high costs, it "never fully launched," she says.

The AAAHA program took root and grew, and Detroit-area AAA hockey was an option for some elite players. But a women's high school team remained a dream—until a tragedy rallied the commitment needed.

In 2003, beloved hockey coach and Pioneer parent Jeff Bourne died of a heart attack while playing in a hockey game. Other Pioneer parents, who'd long wanted a women's team, decided to make it possible for his daughter Lexi to earn a varsity letter in the sport, just like her dad.

"We baked chocolate chip cookies and ordered a bunch of Domino's pizzas and recruited girls [for the team] out by the flagpole after school," recalls Natalie Grantham, one of the founders, whose daughter also played with the inaugural team. It was originally a combined team with Huron, but after four years the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League—which includes fifteen area women's teams—decided they'd become too good, so Huron was dropped. When Skyline High opened, it carved more students from Pioneer's potential roster.

Today, Kate Begeman is an assistant coach for the Pioneer team, where her daughter plays as a senior. "It's a great thing," she says of her alma mater getting a team, "but kind of sad it's taken this long."

Though women's hockey was slow to start, it's rapidly gaining speed. Spurred in part by the Olympic medal runs of the U.S. women's teams, the number of females playing organized hockey has grown more than tenfold since 1990, from 6,300 to 67,000, according to USA Hockey. Programs at the local level, including AAAHA's new Girls Learn to Play program at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, are designed to draw more girls to the sport.

"The future is very bright," says John U. Bacon, author and former coach of Huron High's men's team. "Momentum is



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A TEAM OF THEIR OWN

momentum—once you start playing you keep going. If an older sister is playing, you pick it up.” Bacon says the biggest thing Title IX—as well as girls’ hockey—has taught women “is how to lose and not give up ... how to work as a team and overcome obstacles.” These are things that girls take with them into adulthood, he says, and have helped make women successful in business.

More women also now take up the sport as adults. Ann Arbor’s first senior women’s hockey team was the Steel Magnolias, and its first coach in 1992 was now-retired Ypsi High teacher Don Bartolacci. After coaching both of his sons’ hockey teams, he recalls being faced with a group of women with mixed skills—and a few who’d even “ask me at which goal to shoot the puck!” But the Steel Magnolias became a tournament-winning team and “one of the most fulfilling and fun-filled experiences.” Although the Steel Magnolias are no more, the Michigan Senior Women’s Hockey League has grown from four teams in the early 1990s to forty-three, with several of Ann Arbor’s women’s teams skating out of the U-M’s Yost Ice Arena. The Cube also hosts spring and summer women’s teams.

Over at Veterans Memorial Ice Arena, Michele Mudar and Camille Hutchinson formed their namesake Michele and Camille’s Recreational Hockey League in 1997 to provide a supportive place for



AFTER AGING OUT OF AN AAAHA TRAVEL TEAM, ALONA HENIG MISSED THE SPORT’S “PERFECT MIX OF AGGRESSION, GRACE, AND SKILL.”

women who wanted to learn to play the game. The average age is forty, and Pam Bennett, age sixty—aka “Stalker” on the ice—thinks she may be the oldest player. She hasn’t missed a season in sixteen years. “I’m gonna play as long as I can,” she says, adding that it’s a great place on a Friday night to “get some exercise, have some fun, and get a beer.”

That’s way off for the young players on the Huron/Skyline team. For now,

coach Patrick Buckley is working on fundamentals, discipline, and unity. "We've got a tremendous variety of players," says Buckley, who's also an assistant coach for the U-M women's team, "but they're all athletes." Huron junior Adira Cohen is a lacrosse player and a field hockey goalie who wanted a winter sport. She's one of two goalies to mind the net for the new team. Cohen recruited four of her field hockey teammates, including McCallister.

Pioneer coach Hurd thinks it may be just a few years until Huron and Skyline have enough players to field their own teams. Until then, Buckley says the Pioneer and Huron/Skyline teams—which share ice time and other resources—will face off for the first time at a December 17 game at Veterans Memorial Ice Arena. "Oh, it will be a rivalry," Buckley laughs. "It'll be a great crosstown rivalry." ■

HOCKEY MOM

An earlier generation on the ice

I grew up about an hour northeast of Detroit in the leafy mud of Ontario ... these days perhaps best known to the world as Alice Munro country. My mother would have been at home as a character in more than a few of Munro's stories. She was a child of the last century, born at its onset and alive at its end, which made her a teenager in the First World War. During the war years, all the town's male hockey players were in the army or over in France, but enough good female skaters were around to form a women's hockey league.

Never a vain woman but attractive enough to be a regular in Little Theater productions, my mother became a reckless right winger in the women's league. She was quite indifferent to the risk of a broken bone but very fearful of losing any of her front teeth, prosthetic dentistry being what it was in those days. She gladly turned in her gear at war's end and would eventually marry, have several sons, and become a Hockey Mom.

Suitable ponds for play in the 1930s and '40s would shake off their snow after Christmas and serve us, with any luck, into early March. All my friends had skates and a stick but little else by way of equipment. I protected my shins with a couple of outdated copies of my mother's glossy magazines rolled around my legs and held in place by long wool hockey socks. We did not call our game by today's upscale term "pond hockey" but knew it as "shinny." We dashed home from school most afternoons through winter wind and snow, for an hour of action in the dying light.

Two baked potatoes routinely waited in the oven for me after school, cooling from their baking, and no longer too hot to touch. Never foil wrapped, each would be popped into a skate boot, then the package of tied laces slung over a shoulder, while I grabbed my stick and headed for ice, less than twenty minutes away. At the pond's edge, I would lace up my skates, having transferred the potatoes to each shoe inside their galoshes. Memories of those warm skates still stir snug winter feelings. When the light finally failed us, we would abandon the game, and I could insert both feet into comfortable shoes. Skates again tied and slung, I devoured the potatoes while trudging home.

I told this story to my son on one occasion, along with a couple of his teammates, after a school hockey game. They played at Ann Arbor High School, then the only one in the city, on its travel team, and parents would pool vehicles to get their sons to a distant rink on time. After a game, it was my practice to treat the lads to some fries and a Coke before we headed home. They were enjoying both a victory and the refreshments when I shared the tale of the baked potatoes. My son was humiliated. He listened in silence, eyes on the floor, then

slowly shook his head, muttering, "Cheap, Dad, really cheap."

My Hockey Mom lived a long and active life, still out on ice in her eighties, the skip of a ladies' curling team. She wanted a doctor among her sons, and I obliged but never raised my own family more than a few hours distant. She survived my father and all her friends into solitary old age, hating hospitals and nursing homes, visiting the sick, and attending funerals. She extracted a promise from me on one occasion that I would let her die at home. In the event, regrettably, I couldn't deliver. She tripped on one of her throw rugs and broke a hip into several pieces. While she survived its replacement, she failed to recover sufficiently to be discharged home. It happened in mid-December, and around my Ann Arbor retirement I was able to create free time to be with her most days in the hospital, in lieu of the failed promise.

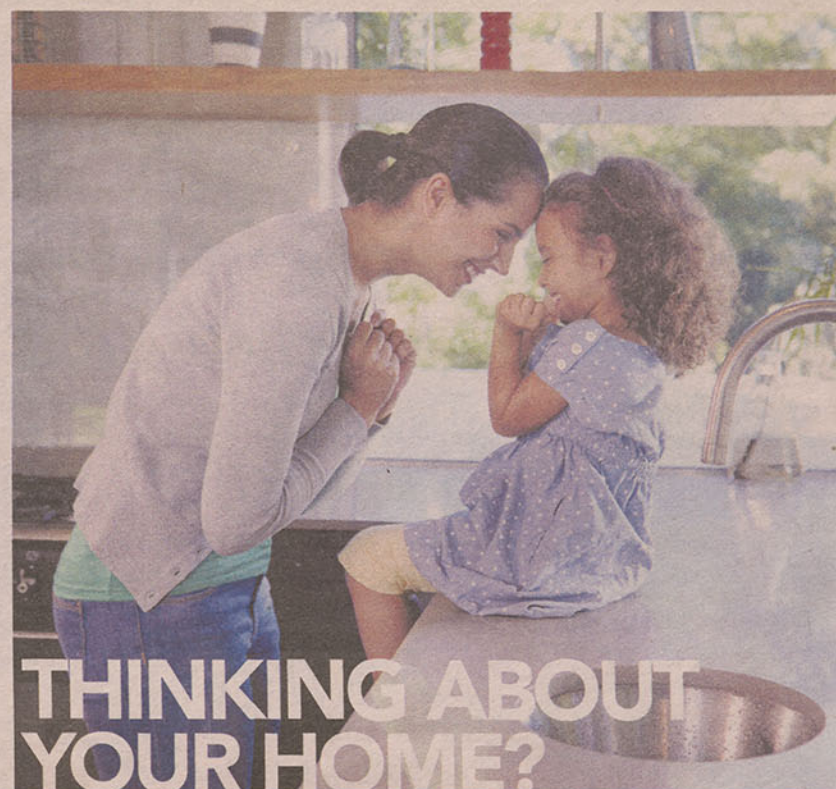
Early Christmas morning arrived; I reached her room for my usual visit. She was in her 100th year and comfortable in a private room. She did not hear me enter and draw a chair silently alongside the bed. It had been freshly remade, and she was propped up by plumped pillows, her hair nicely fluffed, her eyes closed. Pale, blue-veined hands sat clumped together in her lap on the down-turned sheet.

She opened her eyes and recognized me then delivered a quiet order, "Hold my hands." I grinned to myself, thinking, "Hockey Mom to the end," while placing my warm hand on top of two cold ones. Her circulation was clearly failing. I added my other hand to the heap, and she smiled in pleasure, then closed her eyes. After a minute or two, her eyes still closed and her breathing steady, I gently withdrew my hands to slowly spread her right hand out on the sheet. I placed my own beside it to study them. Except for a difference in size, they were identical hands. A memory struck of an incident at a family gathering when I was perhaps eleven years old and everyone agreed that I had my mother's looks and personality. It was a devastating consensus. I'd fled the scene in tears.

What a difference maturity now made, as I heard myself chuckle over the rediscovery and mumble to myself, "How I hope I have all your genes, Mother."

It was enough to rouse her. She opened her eyes and plugged them into mine. "What did you say?" she wanted to know. Well, it seemed an inappropriate moment to get into genes and hands, so I leaned forward and whispered, "Oh, just that I love you, Mother." A tiny smile creased her face, and still regarding me she added, "That's nice." She closed her eyes again, the smile trace still on her lips, and within the next minute quietly stopped breathing. I think I had just given my Hockey Mom permission to leave the game.

—Lawrence Power



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ressed in a teal sterile surgeon uniform, Thiran Jayasundera holds microscissors with latex gloves. Sitting, he leans in to stare through a microscope-like lens aimed straight down over a patient's eye. Backaches. Bright lights. For four-and-a-half-hours, Jayasundera painstakingly places and attaches the prize his patient has waited years to receive—a \$150,000 (Medicare-covered) computer chip just three by five millimeters—scarcely larger than this: □

His peers are, or will be, watching; the surgery is being shown live on a screen just outside of his Kellogg Eye Center operating room and is being recorded to teach other surgeons. This January 2014 operation, and a second the following week, mark the first commercial implantation of “bionic eyes” in the United States.

The operations marked a milestone in treating patients blinded by an eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disease affecting 100,000 Americans. It often shows up later in adulthood and causes cells in the retina—the back of the eye where images are sensed—to gradually die.

That's where the Argus II implant comes in. The tiny patch of wires connects to a slightly larger electronics case implanted just outside the eye. The case receives information wirelessly from a camera mounted on special sunglasses the patient wears. The visual information is transformed into electrical impulses that directly stimulate the remaining retinal cells.

This implant won't help all patients, but for those with advanced disease, who have no useful vision, it can give some sight back. That's what it did for Roger Pontz, the fifty-five-year-old Reed City man who at Kellogg in January became the second patient to receive the commercial implant.

“THAT’S A FLASH!”

PONTZ RECALLS SAYING WHEN THE IMPLANT WAS TURNED ON. “I’M SITTING THERE THINKING, ‘AM I DREAMING? AM I HOPING?’”

Pontz heard of the implant when it was still being tested four or five years ago. “The minute it got approved [by the FDA in February 2013], I called,” he says.

Jayasundera pushed his team to connect with California-based Second Sight, the company that developed the Argus II, and Kellogg was approved as one of the first twelve facilities to offer the surgery when it



MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY, MARTIN YLOET

EYE ON THE PRIZE



LIFTING THE CURTAIN OF BLINDNESS
AT KELLOGG EYE CENTER

became commercially available in January. Jayasundera says that Kellogg offered Second Sight a “well-oiled machine for retinal [care]” with a team-oriented approach and a large staff with wide specialties.

Doctors like Jayasundera usually see patients or perform surgeries, but he does both. “There are maybe two other people in the country that do what I do—both retinal dystrophies and retinal surgery,” he says.

But Pontz, like all Argus patients, needed more than just the surgery in order to see; he needed testing and around three months of training to learn anew *how* to see. First, his doctors had to wait to turn the camera on and make sure that the device wasn't going to make the light he saw too bright. They told him that he might not see anything that first day. Then they flicked the switch on the little black power box at his side and turned the lights in the room on and off.

“That’s a flash!” he recalls saying. “I’m sitting there thinking, ‘Am I dreaming? Am I hoping?’”

Even though he can't see the way he could when he was young, Pontz could tell the difference. He sees in black and white with shadows of lightness and darkness, not in color or with details of faces. He can recognize the shape of a doorway, the contrast between a road and its surroundings, or a moving object—though he has to use the context to figure out what he is really seeing with his new eye.

Pontz, who works as a dishwasher, does not use his camera at work for fear of get-

ting it wet, but it has helped him remedy some of his most basic deficits. As his sight failed, he'd adjusted to giving up driving, but bumping into walls still frustrated him.

“Before I had the Argus II implant, I would have to put my hands out in front of me ... [now] I can go through the house,” he says. “I can see my dark plate on a white table. I can pick out cups on the table.”

He can even tell when his grandson runs into the kitchen. “That’s awesome. It’s just a great feeling.”



hen Jayasundera was training to be a doctor, there was no help for patients like Pontz. He says he went into his field because “things need to be done for them.”

Jayasundera, thirty-nine, has journeyed around the world to get to Kellogg. He was born in Sri Lanka, and when he was thirteen, his family moved to Auckland, New Zealand. As he finished his medical residency at the University of Auckland, he met Shalini Gunawardane at a wedding in California. They eventually married and lived in New Zealand until a genetics fellowship at the U-M gave them their first taste of Ann Arbor. Canada stole them for a two-year retinal surgery fellowship before Jayasundera returned to Ann Arbor as a faculty member in 2011.

The couple has two sons, one four, the other born this past June. That, and the

new surgery, have kept him busy. Meditation and family time help him manage the stress. He calls his parents in New Zealand daily, and Gunawardane says he is never happier than when lying on the floor with their older son, “doing Legos and building castles and blocks.”

“My philosophy is you really do want to change the world,” Jayasundera says. “You do want to change the way we practice medicine somehow.”

His boss says that's just what he's doing. Jayasundera “is very innovative, dedicated, and has the gift of being able to ... take something from a concept or an idea to making it happen,” says Kellogg director Paul Lee.

Like any surgery, it is not without its dangers. Because it's a novel procedure, Jayasundera had to be trained to implant the Argus device. While it becomes more routine every time, to date only about ten people have received the implant across the country—four of whom are Jayasundera's patients.

Pontz has to wear safety glasses for the rest of his life to protect his bionic eye, and faced the risk of infection, a detached retina, or losing his eye.

“But what do [I] have to lose?” he says.

After the surgery, his eye was uncomfortable and looked a bit swollen. It turned out the wireless receiver was pushing his eye out a bit. Jayasundera operated again to fix that.

The Argus II surgery is not the only treatment developing for patients with retinitis pigmentosa, but it is the first to achieve FDA approval. Other therapies aim to do one of three things: slow the progression of the disease, correct the genetic hiccups that cause it, or make new eye cells using stem cells.

Robert Weinreb, director of the Shiley Eye Center at the University of California—San Diego, says that it “is not clear yet” which treatment will “be most successful in clinical practice.” The techniques are too new, and are still improving. Future versions of the Argus implant, for example, should allow patients to identify colors and distinguish between faces.

In fact, one treatment may not be superior to another, according to Weinreb's colleague Kang Zhang. Rather, “they are complementary,” says Zhang, who researches the gene and stem cell treatments. Those may be best for patients still progressing with the disease, while the Argus implant may be best for late-stage patients with no vision.

For Roger Pontz, it has been. And he's urged his sister, who also has retinitis pigmentosa, to get in line for the implant. “There's four kids, and three of us have it,” he says.

They may all end up visiting Jayasundera.

“For patients who have no vision,” Jayasundera says, “being able to have some vision is a great gift.” ■

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Lurie Terrace at Fifty

Ann Arbor's pioneering senior high-rise grew from the vision of a remarkable woman.

by Grace Shackman



PHOTOS BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY



There were no models for a residence for active seniors when Shata Ling (at left, with husband Daniel) conceived Lurie Terrace. (Above) Jim Livingston, one of the architects, speaks at the 1964 dedication; his colleague Kip Serota designed the striking hexagonal towers.

Lurie Terrace, a residence for active seniors of moderate means, was a real groundbreaker when it was built fifty years ago. "There were none [like it] to the best of our knowledge" recalls Bob Chance, one of the four architects who worked on it. The designers had no template to follow, just organizer Shata Ling's vision.

Ling was a remarkable woman who was not only full of ideas but made them happen. Born in 1905 in Houston and trained as a social worker, she came to Ann Arbor with her husband, Daniel Ling, in 1943 for grad school—he in civil engineering and she in public health. She later returned to U-M to study community organizing and

"We started with what was generally expected, but Shata pushed," architect Bob Chance recalls. "She wanted something different."

worked part-time for researcher Wilma Donahue, a pioneer in the new field of gerontology.

When Ling realized that local seniors lacked a gathering place, she and her husband bought an old house at 439 S. Ashley to use as a senior center, renting out a basement apartment to help cover the cost. Ling served as the unpaid director and organized activities such as art classes and choral groups. "It was almost an instant success," recalled Daniel Ling in a 1985 memoir. When they outgrew that building, a generous donation helped them buy a house at 323 Packard, again making it work by renting

out apartments. One of the renters there was U-M student Bob Creal, who later served on the board of Lurie Terrace for thirty-eight years.

The seed for Lurie Terrace was planted when Ling learned that many seniors who came to the center lived in inadequate rooms or small apartments, often paying more than they could afford. The problem was compounded by the fact that many of the older homes that offered low rents were being torn down to make room for apartments in the post-WWII building boom. There were four nursing homes in Ann Arbor, but no places for active seniors except for the Anna Botsford Bach Home, which housed just seventeen women.

Learning of new federal programs that would loan money for supportive housing for the elderly, Ling in 1961 converted the senior center board into a nonprofit entity known as Senior Citizens Housing of Ann Arbor, Inc. She then put together a proposal, convincing professionals, such as architect Jim Livingston, to sign on without knowing if they would ever collect a fee or not. Daniel Ling was the structural engineer. Wanting a site near downtown, she convinced the seller of property on Huron St. to keep the land option open for two years.

In the spring of 1962, the nonprofit was approved for a \$1.7 million loan, payable over fifty years at 3.375 percent interest. However, it was another year before they could break ground while they ironed out the last details, including raising funds to finish the interior. The community responded

with contributions, including a lounge furnished by the Kiwanis Club.

Meanwhile, the architects went to work on the design. Chance remembers Livingston coming into the office and saying "Bob, we've got a good one. You're going to love this lady," meaning Shata Ling. He was right. Chance developed a "profound admiration and respect for her," describing Ling as "an intense, brilliant, no-nonsense, off-the-shoulder kind of gal."

Livingston, who owned the firm, dealt directly with the clients. Kip Serota was the chief designer, while Linden Pettys did the drawings. Chance's main job was to see that the design was carried out as planned when building began. But Chance says they worked as a team. "If there was a problem we'd work it out together to make it happen," he explains.

"We started with what was generally expected, but Shata pushed—she wanted something different," recalls Chance. The challenge, according to Serota, "was to create something with a modest amount of money that didn't look like a public housing project."

The size of the parcel and the number of units dictated a high-rise. But Serota made it different from most blocky low-income projects by designing two eight-story hexagonal-shaped towers. The ten apartments on each floor are accessed from corridors that branch out from a central elevator, rather than a single long hall. The hexagonal walls made for wedge-shaped rooms, but Serota explained those made the small spaces seem bigger, and gave residents different views out their windows. Chance remembers doing mock-ups to make sure that furniture would fit in the unconventional rooms.

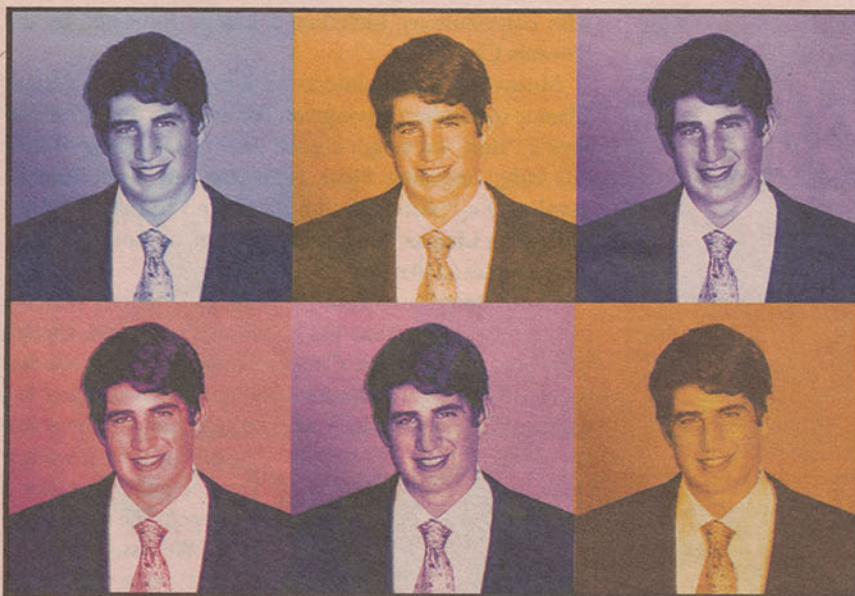
Serota's original design had balconies, but Livingston nixed them, saying that the residents would rather have more floor space. Serota still thinks they would have been a good idea: in the era before air conditioning they would have allowed residents to cool off, given an illusion of more space, and made the exterior more attractive. The section connecting the two towers contained the elevator, stairs, and a different activity room for each floor: a music room, a greenhouse, an exercise room, an arts and crafts room, and a library.

The most controversial part of the plan was locating the dining room on the top floor. Ling suggested that so all the residents, not just those living on top floors, could enjoy the view over downtown Ann Arbor and the Old



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The Lings started Ann Arbor's first senior center in a house on Ashley. When Shata realized that many seniors who attended lived in inadequate rooms or small apartments, she created a nonprofit and got a \$1.7 million federal loan to build Lurie Terrace. (The name honors Shata's mother, Anna Lurie.)



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Curie Terrace at Fifty

West Side. She felt the bother of bringing food up and carrying garbage down was worth it. City officials disagreed. Characteristically, Ling didn't back down, and eventually they relented.

The groundbreaking took place in May 1963. Sid Woolner, head of the federal Community Facilities Administration—soon to be folded into the new Department of Housing and Urban Development—called Lurie Terrace “a remarkable, intriguing design.” When construction started, Ling resigned from her by-then-paying position at the senior center to volunteer on the site. She was given a hard hat and an office in the old house that the contractors were using as headquarters before tearing it down. “She was one of the few clients I’ve had who read the specifications,” recalls Chance. She monitored every aspect of the project, including the doors, carpeting, slate, drapery rods, kitchen cabinets, and tile. She also fought to save the trees on the site.

Daniel Ling recalled that his wife “climbed ladders to check the construction and brought coffee to the workmen on cold winter days. With such feminine supervision, some of the men wanted to be informed if she became involved in another construction project so they could apply for the work.”

As the opening date neared, there was a steady stream of applicants to live in the 142 apartments in the new building, which Ling had named after her mother, Anna Lurie. To qualify, people had to be at least sixty-two years old and have an income of less than \$4,000 a year if single, or \$5,000 if married. There were also federal rent subsidies for twenty people who qualified.

The official opening was October 9, 1964—a day so cold and raw that some of the participants watched from inside. The program booklet included a quote from Donahue, from whom Ling had gotten many of her ideas: “Not only is this a ‘break-through’ in retirement housing for middle-income people, but Lurie Terrace represents the practical application of U-M’s many years of work and study.” The *New York Times* published an article about Lurie Terrace, and in the early years there were visitors from around the world who wanted to learn from its example.

Ling stayed involved in the new residence for the rest of her life. Louise Bale, who later became active in Lurie Terrace, recalled her first glimpse of its creator while dining there with a friend: “Ling entered, dressed in a classic brown suit, her gorgeous red hair piled high on her head. She radiated warmth and vigor. Table after table of the residents looked up to greet her as she passed. A quick remark, an inquiry about someone’s health, an infectious laugh—everyone in that section of

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- Evan N. Pratt, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner

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Board president Mary Jean Raab shows off the vista from the top-floor dining room. Placing it there was the most controversial part of the design, and city officials objected. But Ling prevailed—she wanted every resident to be able to enjoy the view.



the dining room became livelier at once.” Ling died of cancer in 1969 at age sixty-four, just five years after Lurie Terrace was completed.

Serota left Livingston’s office to work for Minoru Yamasaki, who was expanding his staff when he got the job of designing the World Trade Center. Chance spent most of his career working as an architect for the U-M. Livingston continued in private practice, where he designed a wide array of local buildings including Weber’s, Kale’s Waterfall (later Szechuan West), and Lawton Elementary School, as well as apartment houses and private homes.

If Shata Ling and Wilma Donahue were alive today, they would be amazed at how their pioneering efforts have mushroomed. Every community in Washtenaw County now has a senior center. Catholic Social Services Resource Directory lists eighteen senior residences including independent living, assisted living, and memory loss units, plus sixteen subsidized or affordable places. For seniors who wish to stay in their own homes, there are a myriad of services including Meals on Wheels, senior cab service, home sharing, and home health care.

The revolution that brought about this new order started in 1965 with the passage of the Older Americans Act, part of LBJ’s Great Society program. “It moved

the needle on the needs of seniors and how to respond,” explains Henry Johnson, U-M emeritus vice president, who is a neighbor and supporter of Lurie Terrace. “As the population aged, a more informed public began advocating for better senior services, which led to both private and public development.”

In spite of the newer competition, Lurie Terrace is usually full, although vacancies are not filled as fast as they once were. “It used to be that they [new residents] would move in literally the next day. They’d already have their things in the car,” recalls Mary Jean Raab, who has been a board member for twenty-two years and is now president.

Most of the original units were very small efficiency apartments ranging from 300 to 350 square feet. While a great step up from the rented rooms many of the first tenants came from, as Americans grew used to having more space, Raab says, “that was simply not the right mix of unit sizes,” and eighteen of them

were combined to create nine large one-bedroom apartments. Though the efficiencies are a bargain—rents start at \$546 a month, including fifteen meals in the dining room—those larger apartments are now in the greatest demand, with a wait list of several years.

Raab also notes that there used to be more couples. “Today with more options [for support] to bring into the home, couples stay [home] more often until one person passes.”

Another change is the removal of the original ban on walkers and wheelchairs—the thinking then was that the residents had to be totally independent. But as residents needed assistance walking, many just hid their devices or had others go through the food line for them. “We now realize that seniors can be active mentally and physically and still need help,” Raab says.

Last year the board paid off the fifty-year mortgage. That frees them from HUD rules but also means greater responsibility. Since 2002, the board has spent \$1.2 million on major updates—installing air conditioning, replacing plumbing, and putting in new windows.

“Fifty years after the first resident, we are thriving, still around, fulfilling our mission,” says Raab. She hopes that with all the improvements, the same thing can be said at the end of the next fifty years. ■

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Mark and I never really hit it off.

I first met Mark Koernke in the late '80s. Gene Ward, a fellow FBI agent, had asked me to accompany him on an interview of Koernke. We met with Koernke in his basement office at Alice Lloyd Hall, a University of Michigan dormitory, where he was a janitor.

Ward was investigating a potential hate crime, the painting of some racial epithets on a home. It had been suggested that Koernke might know something about it. Koernke denied that he had any knowledge, and we concluded that he most probably had no connection to the graffiti painting.

During the course of the interview, Koernke made it known that he had been an intelligence officer in the Army and in addition a counterintelligence expert. He said he continued to train U.S. military units regarding tactics of foreign militaries. I made no secret of my skepticism about Koernke's claimed background and questioned some of the conspiracy theories he apparently felt compelled to share with us.

This all predated Koernke's semi-notoriety. Later he would have a national following as "Mark from Michigan" and his own radio show, "The Intelligence Report."

He was an early purveyor of the conspiracy theory about a "New World Order." As best as I've been able to understand, the New World Order involves the takeover of the U.S. by the United Nations fronting for some insidious international

bombing of the Murray federal building in Oklahoma City.

Many people in the movement were shocked and disgusted by the slaughter of innocent people including children. They did not want to be identified with a philosophy that condoned such acts. (In contrast Koernke espoused the theory that the government actually did the bombing to set up Timothy McVeigh and to destroy records that proved the "Gulf War Syndrome" was real. He didn't really explain why those records were in Oklahoma City.)

As the militia movement diminished, there were some internal conflicts.

In 1997, in Michigan, one member of the militia was murdered, and other members were charged with the murder. Although Koernke was never believed to be involved, he was subpoenaed to be a witness. When a process server showed up on Koernke's porch, an argument ensued.

Apparently Koernke threatened the server with a rifle, re-

ing. (Presumably Koernke was looking for a hollow reed so he could breathe while submerged like in so many old movies.)

When the police ground units arrived, Koernke was persuaded to come out of the water, but not before giving a one-finger salute. Koernke told the police he was Michael Kerns. He was affecting an Irish brogue and had attempted to dye his hair red although the result was closer to orange. Several weapons were found in the pickup, including an AR-15 and a semi-automatic AK-47. Kerns/Koernke was taken into custody and lodged in the Barry County jail in Hastings.

It was suspected that Kerns might be Koernke, but a positive identification would take hours—there was not yet a way to electronically transmit fingerprints to locations where his prints were on file. That night the Barry County sheriff called me and asked if I could come to his jail to identify Koernke.

When I arrived at the sheriff's office, there sat Mark Koernke with orange hair and no mustache. I greeted Mark by name, but he acted like he didn't know me. Talking in a terrible Irish brogue, he said his name was Michael Kerns.

I told him that I needed to ask him a few questions, but first I had to advise him of his rights. After advising him, I passed him the acknowledgement form and asked him to sign it, which he did. I looked at the form and asked him if he realized he had signed the form "Mark Koernke." He looked totally crestfallen.

In August 1999, after again being placed on bond, he was tried on the assault charge and found guilty. The judge sentenced him to eighty days in jail, but he was credited with time served and given probation.

Koernke continued his shortwave broadcasts and hawking his videocassettes with titles like "America in Peril" to a somewhat diminished audience. But our paths were destined to cross one more time.

In March 2000, there was a bank robbery in downtown Dexter, Koernke's hometown. I responded to the robbery and was en route when I heard radio traffic describing a suspect vehicle, an old white Plymouth Fury. A sheriff's deputy had stopped a car matching that description, but when he approached the car it sped off. A high-speed chase ensued that lasted forty minutes. During the chase the officers became aware that the car was Koernke's, and he appeared to be driving it.

The police were able to cut off Koernke. He tried to ram a police car and run over a deputy. Then he decided to drive cross-country across a field but ended up hitting a tree. He got out and ran toward a channel of a lake. There he again executed his water escape and evasion tactic, swimming across the channel. The police caught up to him on the other side.

As a MSP trooper with his gun drawn approached Koernke, Koernke shoved him. The trooper displayed remarkable



TABI WALTERS

MARK KOERNKE AND ME

BY GREG STEJSKAL

AN FBI AGENT RECALLS THE MICHIGAN MILITIAMAN

cabal that wants to institute international socialism. Part of this conspiracy was the building of secret concentration camps in the western U.S. to house those who would be unwilling to accept the New World Order. Among other things, believers thought that "black helicopters" were being used to spy on Americans.

The black helicopters and Mark from Michigan became synonymous. The New World Order was supposed to have happened by now, but it hasn't, and maybe that's because Koernke has been on watch. I think Koernke perceived himself to be the "intellectual" underpinning of the militia movement—sort of a latter-day Thomas Paine.

Our paths continued to cross. There were the times I saw him surveilling the federal building parking lot. I guess he was trying to log our movements for intelligence purposes. I would wave to him, and he would hide.

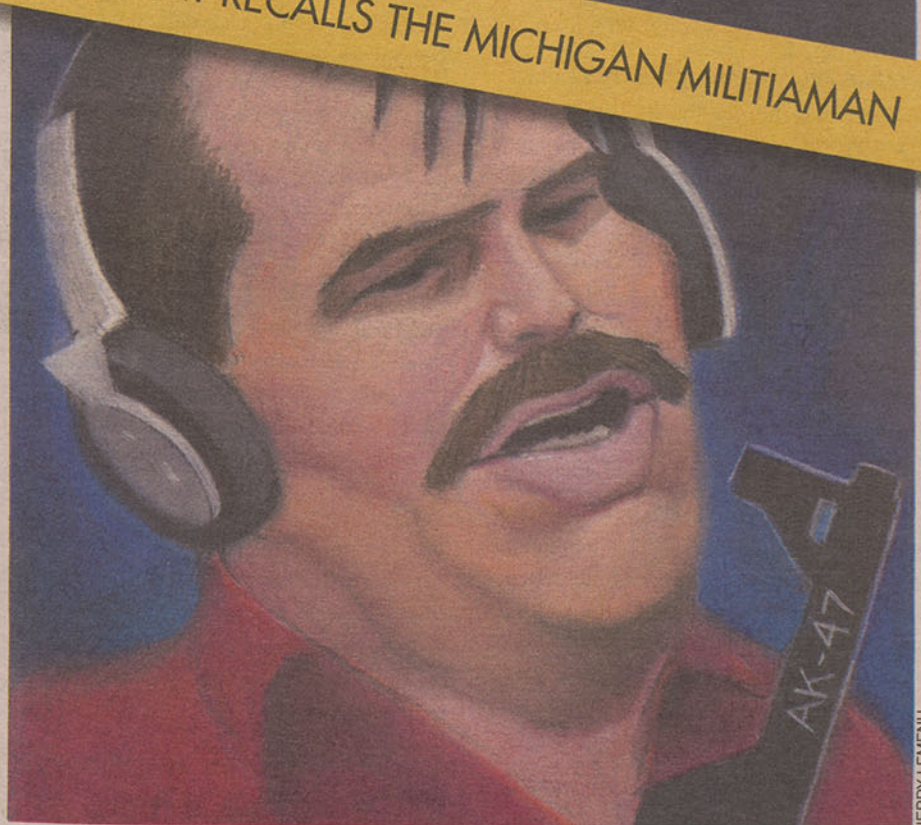
During the late '80s and early '90s the militia movement grew dramatically. The high-water mark came soon after the

sulting in Koernke's being charged with assault with a dangerous weapon. Koernke's trial date was in May 1998, but Koernke didn't appear for the trial, and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. In June a federal fugitive warrant for Koernke was issued based on my affidavit stating there was reason to believe he had fled from Michigan.

While Koernke was a fugitive, he continued his shortwave radio broadcasts from various undisclosed locations. He mentioned me several times in unflattering terms. He also said that unless the federal charges were dropped "a lot of their [the FBI's] people might get hurt."

In July, a Michigan State Police helicopter was searching for marijuana plots in rural Barry County just north of Battle Creek. The helicopter crew observed a pickup truck, a man, and a woman near an abandoned mobile home.

When the helicopter came in for a closer look, the man, Koernke, began running. I don't know if the helicopter was black, but it must have been unsettling for Koernke to have a helicopter seemingly coming for him. Koernke then jumped into a shallow lake where only his head was show-



WHEN KOERNKE WAS A FUGITIVE, HE CONTINUED HIS SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS. HE MENTIONED ME SEVERAL TIMES IN UNFLATTERING TERMS. HE ALSO SAID THAT UNLESS THE FEDERAL CHARGES WERE DROPPED, "A LOT OF THEIR [THE FBI'S] PEOPLE MIGHT GET HURT."

restraint and didn't shoot him but rather subdued and handcuffed Koernke.

I had proceeded to the bank and quickly learned Koernke was not the bank robber. (We later caught the actual bank robber, who was responsible for several other robberies.) Apparently Koernke, a customer of the bank, had stopped in the street in front of the bank. He'd had his son get out of the car to place a deposit in the bank's ATM. The son after making the deposit ran back to the car. He was wearing a baseball cap, as was the bank robber.

Witnesses outside the bank saw this, and when they were questioned about the bank robbery, thought they had witnessed the getaway. A description of the car was broadcast, which led to Koernke's being stopped.

It is not clear to me why Koernke fled from the police. There were no helicopters up that day. He later claimed that he feared for the safety of his two sons who were in the car, but they remained in the car for a good portion of the high-speed chase. (Koernke had them get out of the car before he was forced to stop.)

In March 2001, Koernke was convicted of fleeing from the police, assault with a dangerous weapon (his car), and resisting and obstructing arrest. The trial and sentencing were before the same judge as his first trial. But the judge was far less sympathetic this time. She sentenced him on each count to run concurrently, with seven years being the

I GREETED MARK BY NAME, BUT HE ACTED LIKE HE DIDN'T KNOW ME. TALKING IN A TERRIBLE IRISH BROGUE, HE SAID HIS NAME WAS MICHAEL KERNS.

maximum time in prison. It would be about three years if he were paroled. He did not get along well in prison and did close to the maximum time.

On March 15, 2007, Koernke completed his sentence. He has resumed doing the shortwave broadcasts of his "Intelligence Report," most recently carried on Liberty Tree Radio. In addition he has many videos available on YouTube. I'm guessing drones and the NSA/Snowden revelations are giving him a lot of new material.

This article was previously published on ticklethewire.com.

Greg Stejskal served as an FBI agent for thirty-one years and retired as resident agent in charge of the Ann Arbor office.



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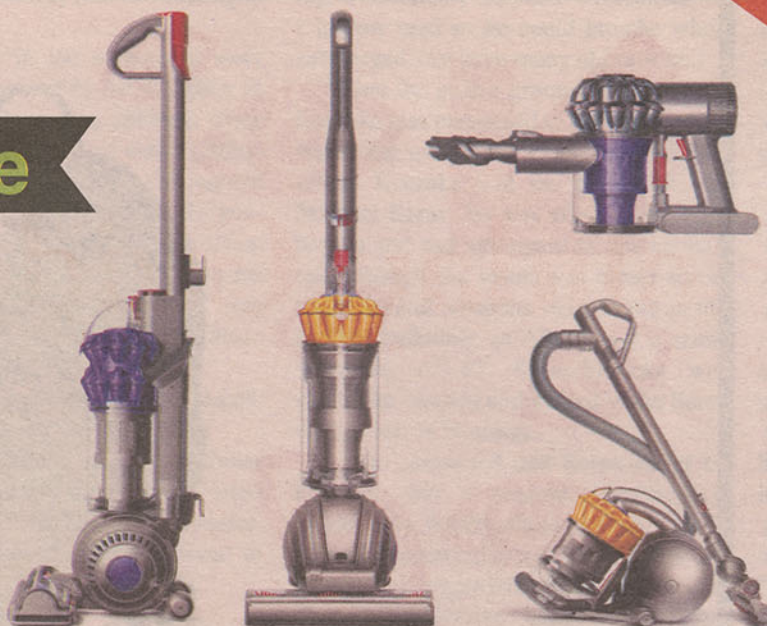
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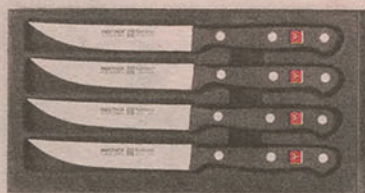
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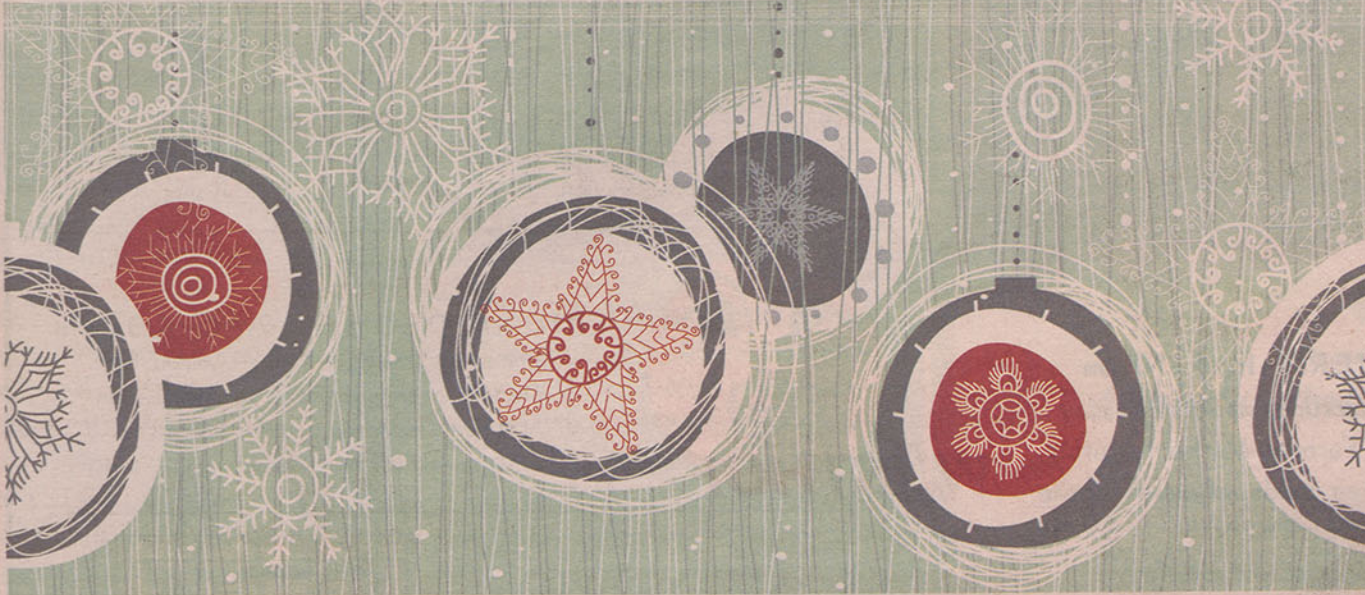
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2014 Holiday Guide



My little sister doesn't like shopping. Clothes, shoes, accessories—none of it interests her. You will find her parked on our parents' dark olive couch every Christmas morning, her legs folded under her, while she Frisbee-tosses drug store gift certificates to mom, dad, grandma (who always catches the card with one hand), and grandpa. The toss has become an annual Olympic sport for our younger cousins—each diving and crashing into each other for the card that will bring them candy and soda in days to come.

Our family is one that sometimes spends more money on the gift wrap than the actual gift, one where the men know the difference between mashed and smashed potatoes, and the women seek new and interesting ways to use cinnamon sticks (last year mom tied the sticks to our dessert forks with dark green ribbon—a much better experiment than the year we had sticks curiously hiding in our mashed sweet potatoes).

To say the least, our family knows how to do a holiday party.

So it was only a matter of time before my sweet little sister Kim was cornered by the Marthas and Bettys of our family to step up her year-end game.

"Think of it as a learning experience," said my Aunt L.

"Think of it as a creative adventure!" said my Grandma B.

"I think of it as battling crowds and wet freezing winds—all for what? I don't know what to get anyone!"

With that, the challenge was thrown down.

"I bet you could get all of your shopping done in one afternoon. If you can't, I'll treat you to a drugstore gift card of your very own."

"You're on."

The morning of the challenge arrived. I picked up Kim in my little black car, and we made our way to Kerrytown. We figured we'd start there and wrap around our "Michigan Ave."—what we call downtown Ann Arbor in our house. After grabbing a couple of mochas from Sweetwaters, we looped around the aisles of locally grown vegetables at Sparrow Produce, before working our way up to our first stop, **Found**.

"This has Aunt L written all over it," said Kim as she held up a milky cream pillow with "Ann Arbor" cleanly written across it. I was impressed. Wasn't sure if it was the coffee kicking in, but she was starting off strong. I already knew exactly where the pillow would go in my aunt's industrial-Zen home, filled with cool doodads and unique pieces from her travels. We got the pillow.

"We're not wrapping cinnamon sticks around it," said Kim.

Fair enough.

Changing gears, we wandered into the colorful and happy store that is **Mudpuddles** toys. They claim on their sign that they are a great place for kids, but I have to argue they are also a great place for adults. After playing around in the bins of grab-and-go toys, we settled down enough to start combing the

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MIDNIGHT MADNESS



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th

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Throughout the Kerrytown District merchants are participating in this year's event with fantastic sales to help you get a jump on your holiday shopping!



CHILDREN'S LANTERN PARADE

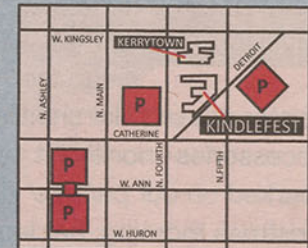
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Parade starts at 7pm.



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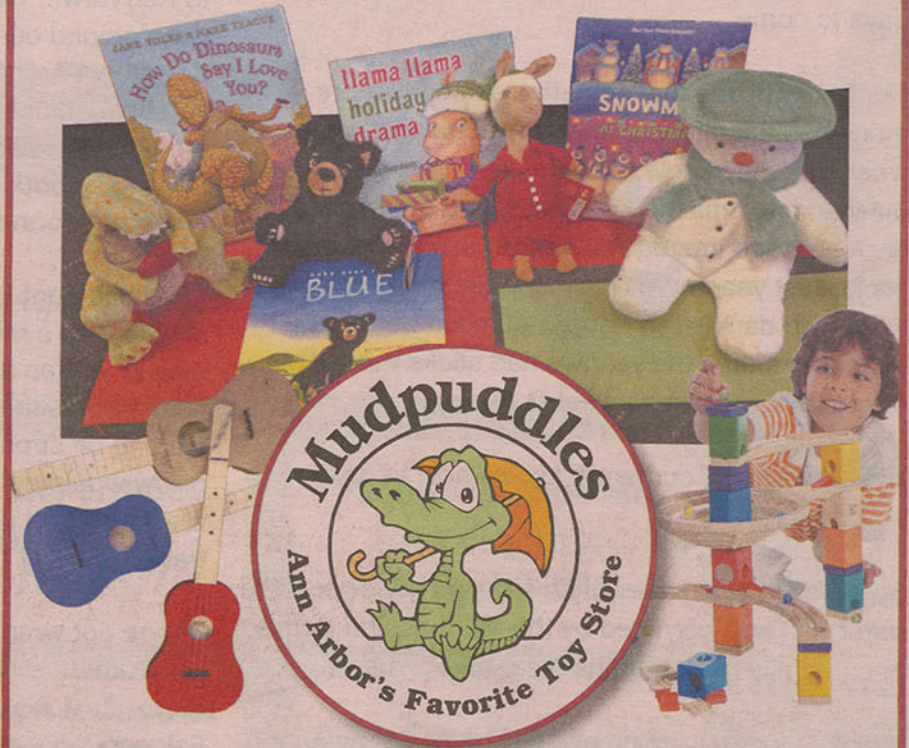
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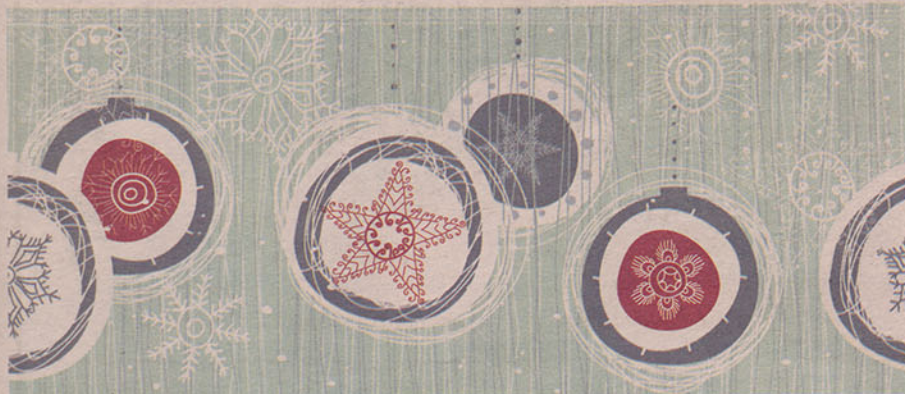
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2014 Holiday Guide



shelves for the perfect gift for our youngest cousin, Jeff. We both came across an adorable wooden banjo at the same time. Since Jeff has always enjoyed slamming the wooden spoons against the pot of boiling potatoes on the stove (scaring all the women in the house) we knew that he had the music in him. Figured this might be a safer way to get it out.

Wrapping up (no pun intended) our Kerrytown shopping was a quick stop in **Hollander's**. Anyone who has ever been to Hollander's can tell you, though, that it's never just a quick stop. Kim held up sheet after sheet of beautiful graphic, solid, and glittering gold and silver papers for closer examination. While Kim claims she's not creative, it should be known that the first time we shopped at Hollander's she collected three sheets that she later framed and hung above her bed for a quirky look. When we asked her what made her think to do that, she just said she thought it would "look good." I stood back and watched her pull, wrap, and roll sheet after sheet. Finally content with her selections, we made our way out of Kerrytown Market & Shops.

Across the street, catercorner from **Zingerman's** in Kerrytown, is the cottage-like **Catching Fireflies**, a whimsical goodie shop stocked full of uncommon and handmade gifts. There are unique hostess gifts, funny napkins, and green goods if you're looking to bring something to the table that's a nonfood item. Kim found hot pink cocktail napkins with the cheeky

"Drinks Well With Others" written across it, and a bacon cookbook for our Uncle T. After reading a couple recipes, the bacon-and-tomato-stuffed artichokes recipe in particular, we were ready for some lunch.

While grabbing a quick bite to eat from the **People's Food Co-Op**, Kim and I brainstormed what to get for the hardest person in our family to shop for—our mother. Please don't get me wrong: my mom likes whatever we give her, but love, that's a different animal. She just smiles and says thank you for the sweater and candle and sweetly folds it back into the box where it will stay for approximately six months before she remembers it. This year, we wanted her to remember it. No more candles. No more bath beads. This year, we were going to take the prize for most-used gift by mom.

Looking out onto N. Fourth Ave. from a small round table in the Co-Op, Kim hit my shoulder. Before I could hit her back, she said something so right on I could have hugged her.

"I get it. Remember when mom used to say it's not things that matter, but your experiences? That's why she hates all those stupid sweaters; she doesn't want things anymore, she wants to have experiences for memories and stuff."

Right on, little sister.

She wrapped her knit scarf around her neck about six

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Winter Transportation 2014

Our way of life



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1. During severe winter weather situations, find out whether your bus is running on schedule.
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Service Alerts

8

Detours & Delays

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Martha Laatsch

Ann Arbor

2 18

"I use the 18 and connect to the 2C to get to work. The bus service has allowed my husband and I to go down to one car, which saves the cost of a car and parking at the NCRC. I've been riding the bus for over 20 years. I also use the bus to go downtown in the evenings to places like the Food Co-Op. I'd much rather have someone else drive the icy roads in the wintertime than me. I've also met a lot of my neighbors on the bus and it creates a great sense of community."



Cassandra James

Ypsilanti

11 46

"I can use the 11 or the 46 now to connect to the YTC. I work overnight in Ann Arbor. Before the new bus service, I had to use NightRide and had a 15 minute walk home in the dark. The new service saves me \$5 per week and a half hour off my commute each day."



Jevon Liddell

Ypsilanti

20

"With the new services, I can close the store and work Saturdays without taking a cab home. That saves me about \$80 per month. I am an assistant manager where I work and the lack of transportation options is keeping me from taking promotions and making more money. I would like to see later services so young people can take advantage of the local night life safely."

TheRide Moves Business



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New Route 46

The Eye Gallery: Dr. Arnold Bulos

"We provide free comprehensive eye exams and glasses to community members in need. TheRide's new Route 46 will provide much needed access to those who otherwise could not travel to and from The Eye Gallery on Whittaker Road," said Dr. Arnold Bulos. Bulos created his own practice where residents could go locally and receive the care that is not possible through large chains. The Eye Gallery was recently named among the top U.S. independent optical businesses by INVISION, a new business magazine for eyecare professionals. "Route 46 gives the greater Ypsilanti community better access to high quality care with a local focus."

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20 Years

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15 Years

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Richard Gore, Maintenance
Jeffrey Kaminski, Maintenance
Dosseh Loccoh, Operations

Jerome Obidike, Operations
Brian Queen, Operations
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10 Years

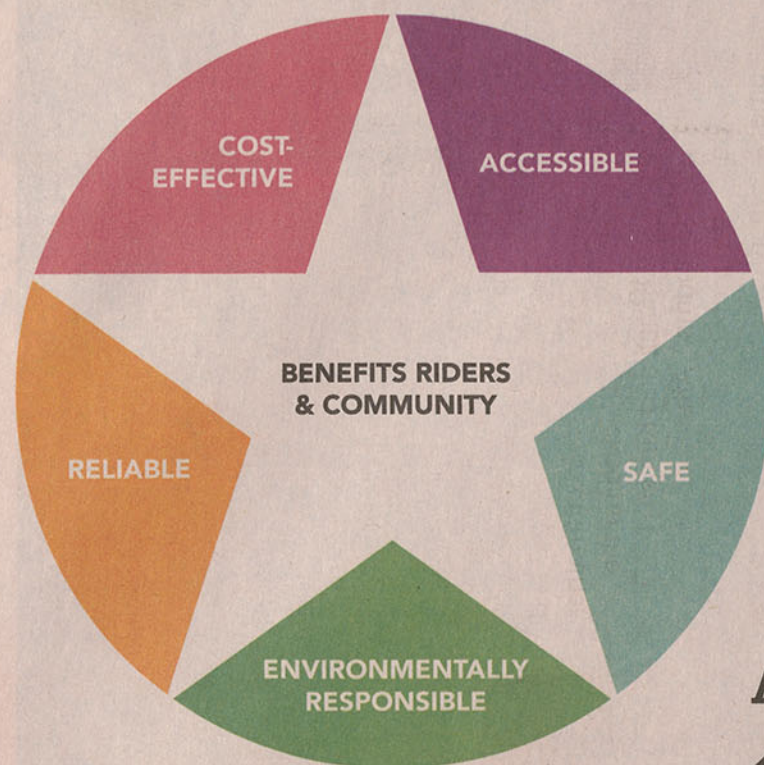
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Performance Star

Fiscal Year 2013-2014



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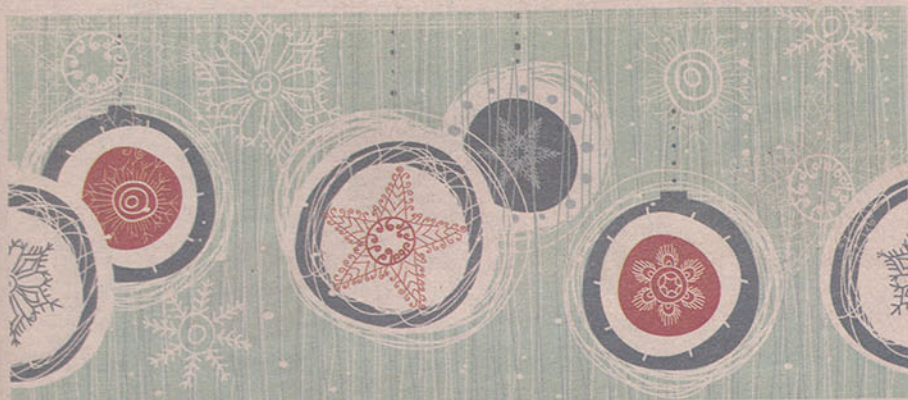
87% rider satisfaction with personal safety

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100% scheduled local fixed-route trips completed

84% on-time performance, at all time points

2014 Holiday Guide



times and threw on her coat. We hustled down the street to **Bellanina**, where we booked her the "Ultimate Bliss Retreat" package. We knew the 210 minutes, complete with a detoxifying steam treatment, rain shower, and choice of Aromatherapy, Therapeutic, or Deep Tissue massage would be a welcome experience for our mom. Kim looked pleased after they handed her the tiffany blue box.

We had four people down, and it wasn't even 1 p.m. yet. Next on the list: our cousin Laney, a freshman at MSU. Laney's style is cozy and bohemian, and once we walked into **Fourth Ave Birkenstock**, we knew the Boston clogs in blue would be perfect for her. Chic-er than a slipper, and lined with genuine shearling, we thought they would be a nice shoe to have when you walk up and down those drafty dorm hallways. The staff worked hard and showed us a variety of styles and colors, and since they have been selling shoes for 26 years, we trusted that they knew what they were talking about.

Walking arm in arm, we made a left and headed down Ann St. The streets were getting busier, and the sun had finally peeked out, making the crisp 27 degrees feel more like balmy 30 degrees. We were both in good spirits, and I was glad to witness Kim enjoying shopping for the first time. She was getting good at it.

Heavenly Metal was our next stop, and one step into the homey shop warmed us both up.

I spotted a 6"x6" woodprint of a chickadee giving a side eye to the store. The handcrafted Matt Adrian print was so detailed and calming I knew my grandmother would love it. I picked up the birch panel, and Kim said at once: "Grandma." After spending most of our childhood summers up north with our grandparents, we knew every bird feed, seed, and house around. The print would be a perfect addition to their rustic home.

We both thought new house slippers along with the chickadee print would be nice for grandma, and we found some at **Park Shoe Repair**. In addition to adding luster to old shoes, boots, and other leather goods, they offer shoes and slippers for purchase. The cozy local shop and friendly staff helped us find ladies' slippers that are comfortable but still offer support and grip. Look for the green awning on the corner of Fourth Ave. if you need to replace soles, heels, or straps on your favorite shoes.

We made a couple more stops downtown before it was a little too cold for window-shopping. A favorite shop of both of ours, **Lily Grace**, is a cosmetic lover's dream come true. Kim and I split up for a few minutes: she went to look for some Rosebud Salve while I looked for the Art of Shaving line to pick out some new things for my dad. The line is perfect for sensitive skin since it's created from a combination of botanical ingredients and pure essential oils—plus you get a fun little brush to apply the stuff

Ann Arbor **Art Center**

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1st Annual Holiday Exhibition
December 12, 2014 – January 4, 2015

Opening Reception:
Friday, December 12, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Art Off the Wall is an exhibition and fundraising event featuring ten local artists showcasing original works of art salon-style in the Ann Arbor Art Center's 117 Exhibition Gallery. The show will highlight both 2-D and 3-D work and provides an opportunity for Art Center guests to purchase art ranging in price from \$100–\$1000.

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2014

with. "Do you think I could apply my loose powder with this?" Kim asked me while brushing the bristles against her face.

Kim's best friend just moved into her first house with her husband, so we had been thinking about what we would get them while we were making our way around downtown. **10,000 Villages** on S. Main has been a fair trade retailer since 1946, and offers beautiful handcrafted products from all over the world. We found funky rugged onyx coasters that were handmade in Pakistan and sold as a set of six. All the coasters are different, smooth on the top and rugged on the sides with warm golds, cool teal, and burnt orange details running throughout.

When I was eight and Kim was four, we thought it would be a great idea to paint the driveway. Being a mature eight, I knew my mom wouldn't understand the concept, so I decided we should make it a surprise. Instead of paint, we would use berries, though, fresh from the tree in our front yard. While my mom would think we were playing with soccer balls and chalk, we were secretly collecting the most plump, dark berries we could find and smashing them together with our hands into a small bucket in the garage. The art wasn't well received, but it will still go down as our first artistic collaboration.

This was the story we were reminiscing about when we walked into the lobby at the **Ann Arbor Art Center**. Offering DIY holiday winter workshops,

monthly public exhibitions (including the *Like It? Take it Off the Wall!* exhibit December 12-January 4), and a gallery shop promoting regional artists, the Art Center is an engaging community visual art space. We walked the gallery shop and were told about Midnight Madness, a shopping and creative extravaganza on December 5 that starts not actually at midnight, but 10 p.m., and offers 10-20 percent discounts in the gallery, treats, and hot beverages—and if you're one of the first 75 people in after 6 p.m., you can paint your own wine glass. Since we love berries and art, we figured grapes and art would be a good fit for us too.

Kim has always been a girl who loves jewelry. She doesn't treat herself to new pieces often, but she wanted to poke around **Abracadabra** while we were out. They specialize in custom jewelry, engagement, wedding, and commitment rings, and we lost about forty minutes trying on cool unique pieces you don't see at your standard mall jeweler. We both agreed our favorite piece (among many) was a floral-inspired short silver necklace with multidimensional daisies going all the way around.

Remember when I said my cousin Jeff has the music in him? That means caroling, too. I'm trying to get into it this season, since I know my family will insist we do it, but my sneaky trick of mouthing the lyrics with no actual sound coming out has been busted. Luckily there is **Boychoir**, who are offering

Holiday Guide

their annual presentation of "A Boychoir Christmas," with two performances on December 13. Boychoir is a family-friendly holiday tradition that includes a variety of Christmas hymns and carols, showcasing the unique and outstanding local choir of all boys at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor.

The First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor also offers a holiday celebration with special music and candlelight services on Christmas Eve. The Advent sermon series "Holy Preparations" can be attended at either of the two locations in Ann Arbor—S. State St. or Green Rd.

Another great community place to sing, worship, and celebrate the season is **First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor**. A Festival of Lessons and Carols, a special Christmas Eve service, starts at 7:30 p.m. and is based on the annual presentation at King's College, Cambridge. There will be readings from the Christmas Story alternated with choral and congregational singing of carols. If you have a toddler or infant who doesn't enjoy the carols, child care is provided.

Ann Arbor doesn't disappoint with community events, and **Ann Arbor Artists Collective** is another great holiday alternative activity that includes ornament raffles, and gifts ready for giving, created by local artists working in glass, clay, painting, fiber, jewelry, and metal. The one-day event is on December 4 at the Pittsfield Grange, just off Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.

Our youngest niece, Bella, loves ballerinas. She's not old enough yet, but once the girls in our family turn ten grandma takes them to their first ballet. I remember mine—I picked *The Nutcracker*. I remember picking out a faux-fur white dress coat that I paired with a deep red party dress, worn with a black ribbon belt. My black patent leather shoes popped against the thick white snow on the ground. The ballet was unlike anything I've ever seen, and I became captivated by the music, dancers, and drama on the stage. **The Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre**, a local nonprofit, is performing *The Nutcracker* four different days this holiday season for your family to enjoy. The Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre is working to promote local interest and appreciation of classical ballet performed with live music and theater. Theater opportunities are available for area dancers, choreographers, musicians, and theater performers.

Kim and I decided that since Bella loves ballerinas, this year we would turn her into one. We stopped at **Lexi's Toy Box** before heading out of downtown, and picked out a pink-and-purple fairy princess costume that she could wear during her dance routine that she likes to put on for our family after our big holiday dinner. While at Lexi's, the toy house that offers toys and play sets that don't require batteries or plugs, we found her some finger puppets that she could use as backup dancers in her routine. Lexi's Toy Box is located

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor



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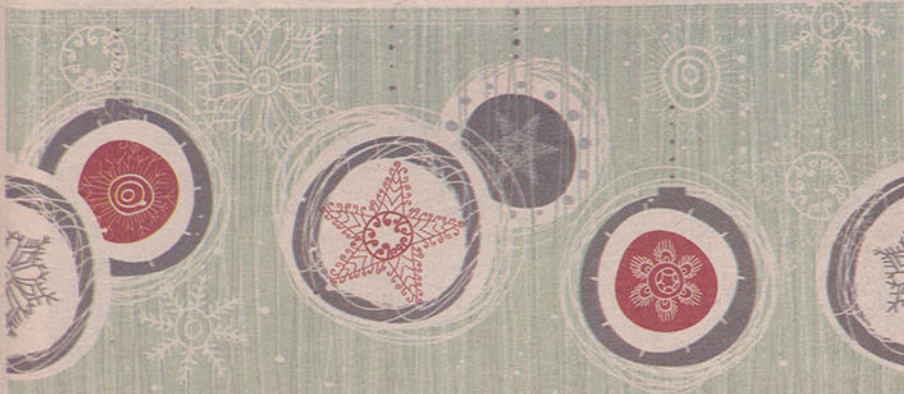
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2014 Holiday Guide



on S. Ashley—ask for Nathaniel the Bunny and let him know the Observer sent you. He will help you out.

There is a place you can go to buy a gift, walk in with your eyes closed, and pick the first thing your fingers touch—and the recipient will love it. It's called **Petco** and it's located in Arborland. We settled on a small rubber hot dog for our family dog, Chewy Buddy, and ventured around the other stores in Arborland to pick up some stocking stuffers. Home decor, electronics, books, and toys can be found in the shopping center located on Washtenaw Ave.

Washtenaw offers a lot of shopping this year, and **Arbor Hills Shopping Center** is a place you can get lost in for a couple hours. We spotted Real Irish in the outdoor mall while we were driving, and had to pull in to check it out. My fiancé is not Irish, but sometimes I think he wishes he were with his love for Guinness and cozy wool sweaters. Kim (being the nice sister-in-law-to-be that she is) picked him up four Guinness glasses, and a traditional Donegal tweed wool cap that I'm sure he'll love. "Never can go wrong with a hat" is what she told me as she cashed out. Real Irish also offers Aran sweaters, Celtic art prints, authentic jewelry, clothing, and accessories.

Also on Washtenaw, we came across **Pierre Paul Custom Framing and Art Gallery**. We weren't sure what to expect, but we wanted to check out

the buzzed-about holiday art collection and homemade gifts. The locally owned and operated Pierre Paul offers interior design services that can help you pick a paint color or help you build a new home from the ground up. There is also an art gallery with eclectic art crated by local, national, and world artists.

We ventured out of town a bit and headed to the **Pear Tree** Gift Shop located in the cozy village of Dixboro, right next to Village Green. The Pear Tree is a great shop for home accessories, unique scarves, candles, and jewelry. We found some local gourmet chocolates and Dixboro syrup for our grandpa, and cream and tan knit mittens for our Aunt L. If you appreciate cozy and quaint shops, you need to check out the Pear Tree.

In addition to the chocolates and maple syrup, we wanted to get our grandpa, an Ann Arbor resident for the past fifty years, the essential guide to historic Ann Arbor. **Historic Ann Arbor: an Architectural Guide** by Susan Wineberg and Patrick McCauley, published by the Ann Arbor Historical Foundation, is available at most local bookshops, including Nicola's Books, Literati Bookstore, and Downtown Home and Garden. The guidebook details the most significant historic buildings and neighborhoods in Ann Arbor.

Kim and I knew our grandpa would be happy with *Historic Ann Arbor: an Architectural Guide* to

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get his local fix, but we wanted to get our out-of-town Aunt M. something with a distinct Ann Arbor theme this year. A coworker of Kim's mentioned Front Porch, a local studio on the north side of the historic district with juried fine craft and art, including works by artists recognized statewide and nationally. We learned of **TreeTown Textiles**, a division of Front Porch, and found a hand-woven bag with a fun tree theme that includes a brief history of the Ann Arbor tree program for Aunt M. to tote around.

Downtown Dexter has a small-town feel with downtown shops, and **Boxwood Cottage and Home** is the latest vintage home and cottage shop that offers furnishings and accessories in clay, chalk, mineral-based paints, and more. Paint workshops are also available if you want to give the gift of art in a nontraditional way this year.

Back on the west side, Kim and I met up with our mom to help run some holiday errands. With our trunk loaded full with the day's purchases, we stopped at **Arbor Farms** off Stadium to pick up a Beeler's spiral-sliced ham, Zingerman's artisan bread, local vegetables for an appetizer tray, and wine. We learned that if we picked up six bottles of wine, we'd get 10 percent off, so we grabbed a couple of extra bottles to tuck away as last-minute gifts for unexpected guests. The everyday discount applies to holiday beers and ales too! We had already picked up one of our desserts, a cookie cake from

Mrs. Fields. Since Mrs. Fields in Briarwood Mall was offering 10 percent off orders for the month of December and January, we stocked up on cookies that we would freeze and put into stockings for both the kids and adults. Everyone loves the gift of cookies!

Kim wanted an Apple Ginger juice from **Seva**, so we stopped by Westgate before we headed home. As we left, we walked by **Mast Shoes** and dropped in to check it out. With over 10,000 pairs of stocked shoes, Mast Shoes has basically every style and size (including widths) available. We browsed around and were helped by the friendly and well-trained staff that was available to address our questions. We grabbed another set of slippers, this time for grandpa: the Haflinger slipper with arch support. Kim grabbed some Smartwool socks for herself, and we finally made our way home.

So while it was more like a day (that went into the night) and not just an afternoon, Kim met her challenge of shopping creatively and locally this season. As we were wrapping presents in our family room, her legs folded under her again on the couch, I tossed over my gift for her this year, a beautifully wrapped drugstore gift card with a cinnamon stick artfully tied into a red ribbon. Happy holidays from our family to yours!

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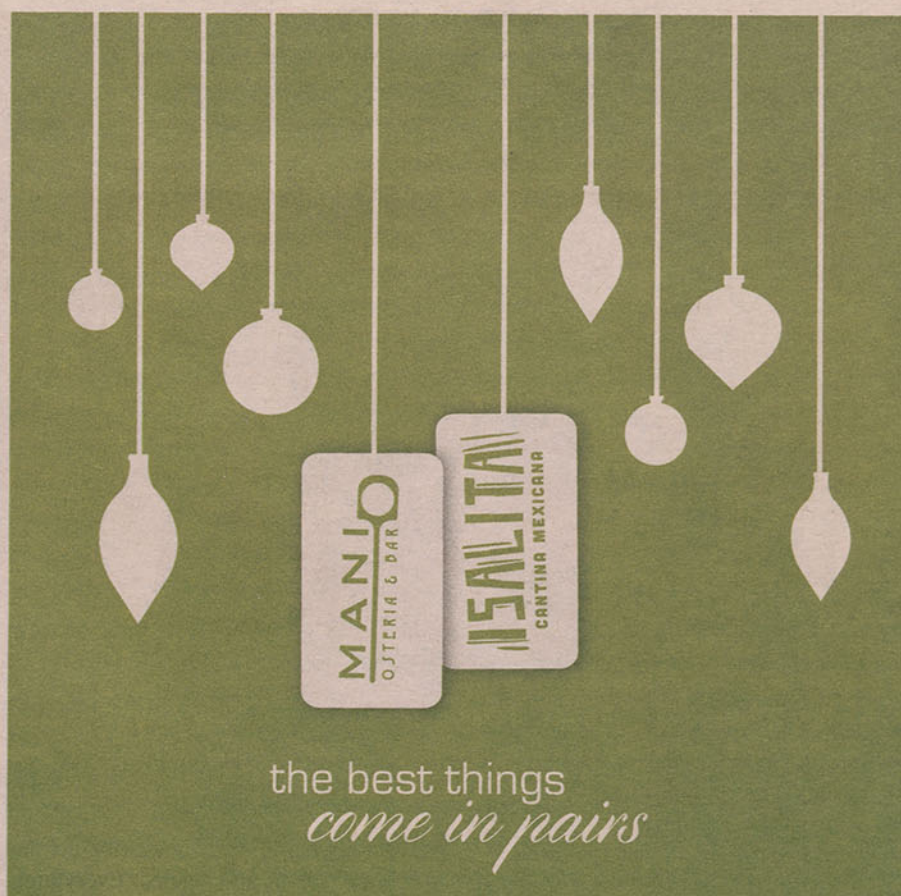
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Restaurant Reviews

Roger Monk's

Dixboro time travel

For endurance, not many area restaurants can beat the Dixboro spot currently known as Roger Monk's. Opened in 1928 as the Country Cupboard, when Plymouth Rd. was a major thoroughfare, it served family-style meals to travelers and neighboring families—including my husband's—for decades. Eventually new owners dignified the space with a formal decor, menu, and name—the Lord Fox—that endured for decades.

During the long Lord Fox hiatus, I worked there, very briefly, under a chef who screamed more than he spoke, and for owners who regarded their employees with suspicious disdain. The chef, however, had real talent, and the owners had serious ambitions, and they struggled within the constraints of the Lord Fox tradition. While old-time patrons often ignored their carefully constructed specials, the kitchen didn't neglect those diners' perennial favorites—great slabs of rosy-pink prime rib and whole duck halves, skin mahogany-brown and crispy, meat succulent and juicy, sauce savory and deeply flavored.

But as the twentieth century drew to a close, the Lord Fox seemed stuffy and out-of-date. In 2007, Erik Kolodzinski bought the place from his parents, and three years later, he plopped a bar and TV in the middle of the dining room, tossed the carpeting and white tablecloths, tweaked the menu, added new cocktails, and made up a new name: Roger Monk's.

Living in the area and excited at the prospect of a casual, comfortable neighborhood joint, my husband and I visited soon after the renovation. But dinner that night, though pleasantly passed on the outdoor deck, was expensive and unrewarding, particularly my roast duck, ordered in memory of those I'd helped prepare many years before. It arrived topped with a pear puree and accompanied by a brandied cherry bread pudding—both disconcertingly dessert-sweet, without any savory notes.

Four years later, though, friends assured me that good meals could be had at Roger Monk's. I had also noticed an increase in cars there on Friday nights—a consequence, perhaps, of Dixboro's seasonal afternoon farmer's market and the restaurant's coinciding happy hour. So I visited again several times during the fall.

The restaurant hadn't changed much—it still feels like a half-finished renovation of a tired, worn-out building. The dining room smells musty, like a boarded-up lake cottage before it's reopened for the season. The bar, usually occupied by neighborhood gents loudly proclaiming in colorful language, doesn't



fit comfortably in the room, nor do the utilitarian tables and chairs. Everything needs paint or freshening or replacement. The real fireplace is wonderful, a draw for many on a chilly night, including, one evening, a table of young hipsters fleeing Ann Arbor's trendy lounges. Unfortunately, only those sitting at high-top tables near the bar can appreciate the crackling fire.

Surprisingly—at least to me—that duck dish, in its entirety, is still on the menu. I ordered it again to see if the plate had evolved—a bit of cheese, perhaps, in the pudding, some duck or chicken stock in the sauce, less sugar everywhere. But it's just as it was four years ago. The bird was fine, if less moist than its Lord Fox predecessor. I scraped off the too-sweet sauce, enjoyed the meat and the broccoli garnish, and saved the bread pudding for the next day. (In fact, the same bread pudding is offered, without apparent irony or embarrassment, as a dessert, when it tastes quite delicious.)

The kitchen's real strength lies in the cooking of meat, specifically beef. A special coffee-rubbed rib eye was nicely enhanced, wonderfully rich and perfectly cooked. A new menu item—New York strip—was also tender and beautifully seared, and the hamburgers, of which there are many variations, along with a few other sandwiches, came out consistently cooked as ordered.

At one meal, my husband's salmon, dusted with blackening spices, would have been excellent cooked medium rare, but he hadn't requested a specific temperature, so it arrived well done; the flavor remained good, but it was drier than I would have liked. My nut- and spice-encrusted rainbow trout lacked much of any flavor and could have been fresher. A pasta dish, heavy with mushrooms in a cream and cheese sauce, thoroughly satisfied my mother, though I found it a bit bland. Accompanying most of these entrées were a rice pilaf or roasted potatoes and a vegetable—steamed broccoli this autumn—which, while providing minerals, vitamins, and fiber, weren't exactly inspired.

Inspired and assuredly not bland were two soups—West African peanut and North African split pea—we picked off the special board. Piquant, savory, and complex, they suggested underused talent in the kitchen. I would order each one again, particularly with winter upon us.

Portabella fries, served with a goat cheese dip, made another good starter, crunchy in a cornmeal coat with meaty interiors. Butter- and beer-sautéed shrimp also piqued the appetite, but we found the crab cakes breaded and stale. Equally stale was a chocolate *pavé* we had for dessert one evening.

Like the rest of our experience at Roger Monk's, we found the service inconsistent—sometimes efficient, even professional, other times untrained and inattentive—but nearly always friendly.

The restaurant is trying—and often succeeding, judging by the bar crowd—to be a neighborhood joint, promoting cocktails named for historical Dixboro sites, local beers, happy hours and yappy hours (dogs and their owners on the deck, in conjunction with the nearby humane society), a relatively inexpensive and expansive menu. And I enjoy dives with good food or warmly appealing places with mediocre food. But at Roger Monk's there isn't quite enough of either, at least for me. I wish there were, because I'd love to be a regular at my own neighborhood's meeting place.

—Lee Lawrence

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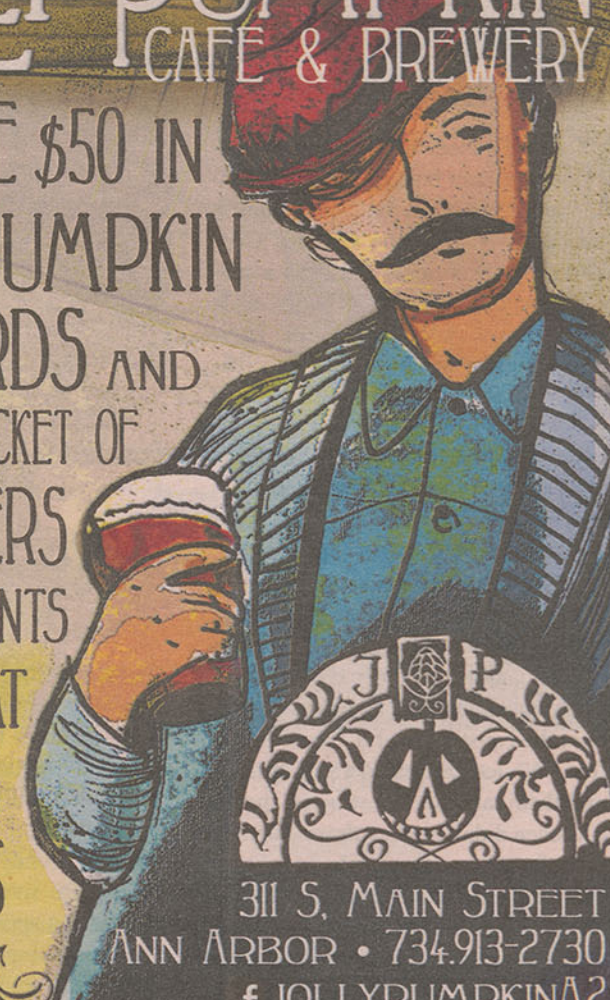
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quick bite

Main and William has a history of world cuisine in an unleaded milieu. A decade ago, Marnee Thai opened with picture windows affording diners a great view of cars refueling at the BP gas station next door. Now there's a Middle Eastern food counter at the back of the BP itself.

Usually gas station fare gets no better than Munchos. But despite the toss-off name and bizarre location, **Eata Pita** offers surprisingly authentic, tasty, well-prepared Middle Eastern sandwiches, salads, soups, and entrées. Its "special falafel sandwich" (overflowing with lots of creamy hummus and tangy tabbouleh) is exquisite, competing for best-in-town honors with Jerusalem Garden's longtime best-seller.

There's no place to sit while you wait for your food, so you stand by the pop display with a good view of the tiny kitchen. The chef works fast, but doesn't cut any corners.

The tabbouleh—loaded with fresh onions, tomatoes, and parsley—is so fine and garlicky that it still was superb two days after it came home and sat in the fridge, which is really extraordinary for this item, known to quickly go limp and soggy. Tabbouleh is one of my reliable tests for judging Middle Eastern food, and Eata Pita's passed with flying colors. My "small" was massive, and a real bargain at \$3.50. I imagine the "large" could feed a party (and Eata Pita does cater).

I sampled the pretty standard Middle Eastern menu in a couple of takeouts and one delivery. The chicken ghal-laya entrée (other places transliterate it as ghallaba) came to my door gooey with tomatoes, onions, and a few mushrooms. It didn't look at all appetizing wrapped in foil in a foam shell, but it was actually delicious, if perhaps a little too tomato-stew-like for some palates. And it was accompanied by a boatload of nice crispy french fries.

The rest ranged from passable to pretty good: smooth but ordinary hummus, an oily but yummy stuffed-grape-leaf pita, a bland and mushy lentil soup, a rather dry kafta sandwich, a fresh but uninspired spinach pie, and a "mecanik sausage sub" advertised as spicy but not very (with a sesame bun playing the "sub" part).

If not all best-in-town contenders, the things I tried were all way better than typical gas station food. And if all you want is a quick lunch or convenient take-home dinner, you won't pay extra for ambience you can't eat.

If you like to multitask, fill your tank while you wait.

—Michael Betzold

Eata Pita, 300 N. Main (inside the BP gas station). No website. Daily 10 a.m.–10 p.m. 302-0330. Appetizers \$3.99–\$7.99, sandwiches \$4.99–\$6.99, salads \$3.49–\$8.99, entrées \$12.99–\$15.99. Wheelchair friendly.

table talk

Dinner and a movie: the classic night out. But what to do with the remains of that Knight's cowboy steak if you want to walk across the street and see a movie at the Michigan Theater? For reasons ranging from sanitary to ol-factory, the theater doesn't want you to bring that doggy bag into the auditorium with you.

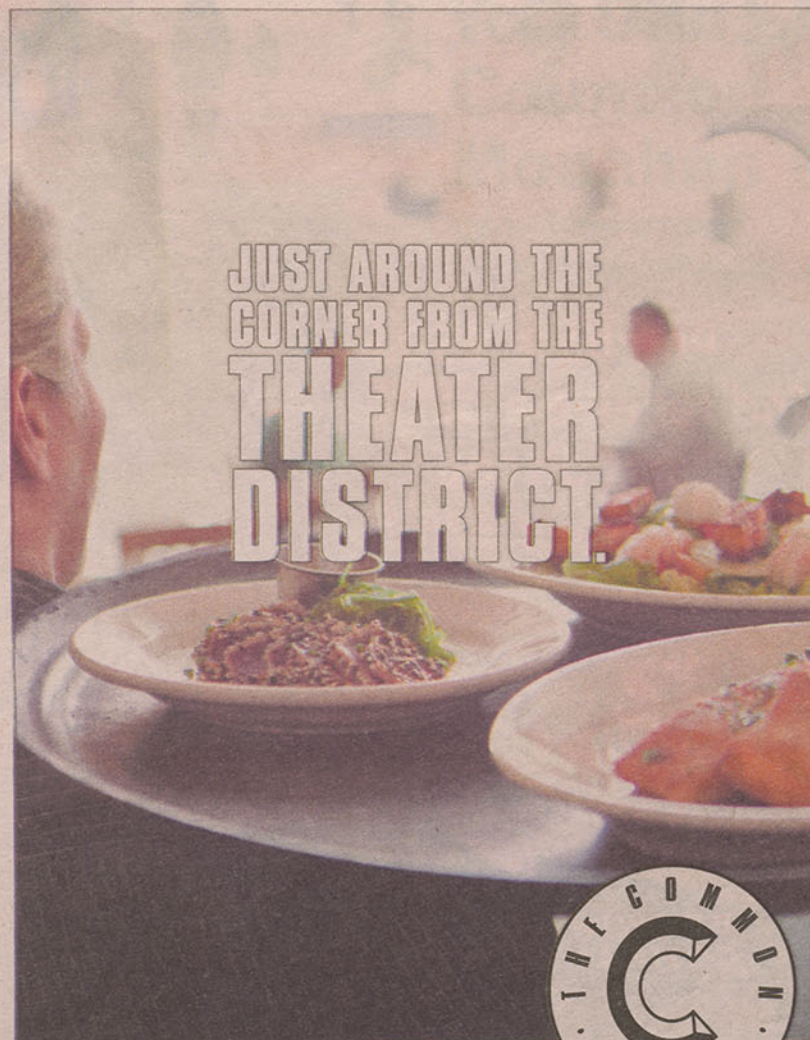
"Of course we're happy to label and refrigerate leftovers for you," says Russ Collins, executive director of the Michigan Theater, perplexed that the question would even be asked. "We're happy to do whatever we can to make our customer's life easier. Any theater with a customer-oriented, friendly staff would." And that, of course, goes for the State Theater too, which is owned by the Michigan Theater Foundation.

Collins doesn't claim that commercial movie houses would provide such

a service, but he does go out on a limb and postulate that Hill Auditorium and the rest of the UMS venues would do the same. "Hill has a refrigerator," he offers. "They have a concession stand in the basement."

Alas, Jeffrey Kuras, director of University Productions, writes: "I am sorry to be the bearer of unhappy news, but my good friend Russ Collins misspoke—we do not refrigerate leftovers for patrons attending Hill Auditorium, Power Center, Mendelssohn Theatre, and the Arthur Miller Theatre. Unfortunately, there are no refrigerators close by the entrances of the performance halls unlike the concession stand at the entrance of the Michigan Theatre. I am sure that the food-safety experts at the university would be very unhappy with my office if we stored unrefrigerated leftovers."

—Sally Mitani



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Marketplace Changes

by Sally Mitani

A Designer's Odyssey

From DTW to Main St.

For over a decade, the Pangborn Collection had a high-profile shop at Detroit Metro Airport. Many airport shops had been unhappy that heightened post-9/11 security took effect just as the McNamara Terminal opened at DTW in early 2002, making it virtually impossible for anyone to visit them unless they were flying. But Dominic Pangborn loved it: "All that security eliminated all loitering and theft!" The location also gave him a base of international customers, like the man from Hawaii who always routed his layover through Detroit so he could shop at Pangborn's store.

A few years ago Pangborn moved the collection to the Michigan Design Center in Troy, but he says that turned out to be a mistake. "It's a showcase for interior designers," but the out-of-the-way location took him off the retail map. Ann Arbor's Main St., he says, is where he belongs.

Pangborn is part artist, part designer, and part retailer, though he mainly leaves that last part to his wife, Delia, and manager Neil Van Houten, who do all the buying of the museum-quality merchandise that isn't designed by Pangborn himself: tea kettles designed by Frank Gehry and Michael Graves, a lemon squeezer designed by Philippe Starck, and other home goods by Ettore Sottsass and Richard Sapper.

He's fascinated with bold, fixed images that seem to move, like his multi-planed painting that won third place in the three-dimensional category at this year's ArtPrize.



Dominic Pangborn sells everything from textiles to luggage imprinted with his own artwork—along with Frank Gehry teakettles, Philippe Starck lemon squeezers, and other museum-quality home goods.

Originally a graphic artist, Pangborn still has a business called Pangborn Design, which he's recently turned over to his son Oliver. He's fascinated with bold, fixed images that seem to move, like his multi-planed painting that won third place in the three-dimensional category at this year's ArtPrize in Grand Rapids. A similar three-dimensional work will shortly be installed on the outside facade of the Main St. store.

Inside, his artwork can also be found on everything from textiles to luggage.

Pangborn is the name of the family in Jackson that adopted him at age ten—his birth mother is Korean; his father an un-

known American GI. "Pangborn is an English name. It's the name of a place—a lot of English names end in 'born.' But people see it and think it's exotic. I've been asked if I'm Cambodian or Laotian," he smiles.

Pangborn Collection, 335 S. Main, 214-1200. Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed Mon. pangborncollection.com

Tamaki Retools as Taste Kitchen

Taking its place in the entertainment district

Dan Van is the chef who opened Tamaki on East Liberty last December. He says it was partly the brutal winter that did it in before it ever really got going. His cafeteria-line sushi and rice bowls tailored to a student budget "did well for two months, but it was too cold. People didn't want to eat cold rice." He moved swiftly to talk the owners, a group of Lansing investors, into cutting their losses and moving in an entirely different direction.

Remodeled as Taste Kitchen, the restaurant now targets the more lucrative evening entertainment scene. A liquor license has been approved and is on the way.

"I wanted ingredients that belong in fine dining, but we didn't really want to be fine dining," Van says. "I wanted it to be more casual." And he also wanted his menu to be "local"—though not too literally. There are lots of options nearby to get meat and dairy products, but as for produce "all you can get around here in the winter is a few root vegetables," he laughs.

He opens his laptop and shows off some of the suppliers he's working with. Most vegetables come from Chef Garden in Ohio, which has its own greenhouses. For fish, he uses Sea to Table. Tapping and clicking a bit to find his account, he

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Manager Kyle Klobucar says that while Taste Kitchen is not an early morning restaurant, the lunch menu always includes breakfast: good coffee and breakfast under the same roof, he says, is hard to find.



CHEF'S TABLE

by Harriet Seaver

I will make two confessions here. I have the biggest sweet tooth in the family, and I don't bake. That said, one of my "best" baking disasters was when I accidentally put cayenne pepper in my ginger snap cookies (who knows what I forgot to put in). We loved them for unknown reasons to start, but once I figured out what I had done and could recreate that sweet/spicy bite, those cookies became a family holiday staple - baked by someone else! I will leave the candy-making to my husband and the baking to my daughter(s). They will be experimenting all month with TIOS takes on Mexican sweets. Stop by this month and you may get to sample something spici-licious - but I will be the first in line!

BAKER'S CORNER

by Jessie Seaver

Dulce December

As a child raised on box cake mix (sorry, Mom) and post-soccer tournament Krispy Kreme, I was at first unaccustomed to and unappreciative of the subtle sweetness and natural flavors found in many traditional Mexican desserts. One of the most common ingredients used is cinnamon, also known as canela. Real canela will be labelled as Ceylon cinnamon, not to be confused with cassia. Canela is softer in texture, more easily crumbled, lighter in color, and has sweeter, milder flavor than its American counterpart. Canela is an extremely versatile ingredient, working well in sweet and savory dishes, such as mole, hot chocolate, and my personal favorite (for this month) - flan.

At TIOS, we prepare our flan by first making a burnt sugar caramel. Then we infuse milk with canela, lemon peel, and whole vanilla beans. Once that mixture is cool and strained, it is combined with egg yolks and baked in a water bath. The result is a silky smooth custard. Flan

is incredibly rich and satisfies any sweet tooth without being overly sugary.

We will be experimenting with different Mexican desserts all month, so be sure to ask what's new!

SALSAS & SAUCES

by Tim Seaver

Putting hot pepper powders in candy



is my forte. Hot pepper chocolates make unique treats along with the usual holiday candy. Any candy or cookie recipe can be tweaked with spicy peppers!

I discovered hot pepper chocolate after dipping many pieces of my habanero cashew brittle into melted chocolate; I had a little left in the bottom of the bowl, which I tasted. The heat from the candy had given it a nice kick, so I started putting it in everything.

It's a lot of fun having people remark about how good - but different - the candy is. Spice up your holidays!

FATHER TEQUILA

by Jeremy Seaver

"Tis better to give good tequila than receive." Someone famous said that, I'm sure. I would amend it a little: "Tis better to share good tequila." One of the best tequilas I know of is El Mayor Extra Anejo. Aged in American white oak barrels for 52 months, this is a fabulous tequila. Aging is not synonymous with quality. However, when you start out with a great spirit, aging does add some wonderful complexities. As a reformed scotch drinker, I love the oaky, earthy smokiness that barrel-aging adds to tequila. The extra anejo is a little more expensive, but it is truly worth it. This holiday season, treat yourself - or better yet, treat a friend... and yourself!



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Marketplace Changes

says, "Today I bought fresh oysters, clams, mussels, tuna, and striped bass from Montauk, New York, and Narragansett, Rhode Island" via the Sea to Table website. "Fishermen pack it themselves and ship it directly."

Taste Kitchen's menu, printed fresh each day on creamy paper, gives stripped-down descriptions that beg to be asked about: "Pork: coffee/butternut squash/Brussels sprouts/maple" reads one dinner entrée for \$19. Lunch is in the \$9-\$11 range. Van was born in Vietnam and often includes pho and *banh mi* on his menus. In early November he was working on a five-course vegetarian tasting menu for \$30 and also hoping to secure a "dinner and a show" deal with the Michigan Theater.

Taste Kitchen also runs an elaborate coffee, tea, and juice operation (coffee supplied by Ypsi's Ugly Mug). Manager Kyle Klobucar says that while it's not an early morning restaurant, the lunch menu always includes breakfast. Good coffee and breakfast under the same roof, he says, is hard to find. "You can get good coffee a lot of places around town, but usually all you can get with it is a pastry. Sometimes I go to a diner and brave the coffee just to get a good breakfast."

Taste Kitchen, 521 E. Liberty, 369-4241. Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dinner: daily 5-10 p.m. tastekitchen2.com

A Bar That Isn't

VinBar is a piece of Michigan wine country.

"T"raverse City is happening for about four months a year," says Kate Nordby, meaning it is not happening for about eight. Hence, **VinBar**, a collaboration among Good Harbor, L. Mawby, and Black Star Farms, three wineries up TC way.

Nordby, manager of the project, says the owners looked at up-and-coming urban neighborhoods in Detroit and Grand Rapids too, but quickly decided Ann Arbor was the safer bet to set up a tasting room. Their location in the old Acme Mercantile "is the heart of the restaurant district" and guarantees a year-round audience, she says. And she has company: from her front step she can see another local Traverse City outpost, Cherry Republic.

Nordby prefers that people think of VinBar as a bar, a place where you can buy a drink and sit for awhile. But legally, it is a tasting room—three of them, in fact, since each vintner was required to get a separate tasting-room license. That means it can serve only its owners' products and cannot prepare food, though it does serve cheese and crackers (for more Michigan liquor license arcana, see Blue Front, below).

Well-schooled in wines, Nordby is more than happy to sell her vintners' work by the bottle or case. She says she can discuss all products frankly because her three bosses "bring entirely different products to the market. Mawby's has the champagne locked. Black Star Farms specializes in cool-climate varietals and also eau-de-vies and hard cider. Good Harbor is known for its well-balanced blends." Largely because of Black Star Farms' expansion into dry, hard ciders and the eighty-proof eau-de-vies, VinBar can also offer craft cocktails. "And because we're in the restaurant district, we offer half glasses of wine, so people can stop in before or after dinner." During happy hour you can get a full glass for the price of a half glass.

From the Leelanau Peninsula herself, Nordby fields the obligatory Mario Batali question. "Oh yes, of course you see him all the time up there in the summer," she says. "I used to work in the Dam Candy Store in Fishtown, and he'd always bring his kids in."

VinBar, 111 W. Liberty, 368-9750. Tues.-Thurs. & Sun. 3-10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 3-11 p.m. Closed Mon. vinbara2.com



VinBar is a joint venture by Up North vintners Good Harbor, L. Mawby, and Black Star Farms. Manager Kate Nordby—herself an import from the Leelanau Peninsula—can provide anything from a half glass to a case.

Briefly Noted

Nick Costos, who opened Mr. Greek's Coney in 1995 on State St. and operated it for eleven years, boasts that he knows the secret to running a successful restaurant in this restaurant-saturated town. Get out your pencils: "Number one, quality is all. And customer service—that is the number one thing. Wait a minute, I guess something has to be number two. But no, they're both number one."

At his new restaurant **Grillcheezerie**, he says, "I wanted to do something simple, something everybody grew up on, but obviously we've stepped it up. I'm not using Wonder Bread and American cheese here." Costos is back from Montreal, where he's been living since 2006. "All that old charm of Montreal, the wood, the cheeses. I guess it influenced me."

"Kids"—by which he means college students—"are of course loving the mac and cheese," both by itself, or grilled between two slices of bread. But he's also grilling more serious, artisanal sandwiches that make use of goat cheese, Gouda, caramelized onion, wild mushrooms, arugula, and so forth. "I'm really hoping delivery takes off"—sandwiches stay hot and pristine in strong pizza-type boxes, though there's a counter and half a dozen tables for dining in.

Costos originally announced he'd be open until 4 a.m. but quickly decided the ultra-late night shift wasn't worth it. "You get kids hanging on things, breaking things; I'm like, 'Hey, can you leave that stuff alone?'" One a.m. is plenty late—if you want a good grilled cheese sandwich, get in here before then."

Grillcheezerie, 709 Packard, 368-7229. Sun.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-1 a.m. grillcheezerie.com

Grillcheezerie is part of an entire block of redevelopment. The **Blue Front** lost a few decades' worth of grime and resurfaced under new ownership (Adam Gottschalk and Anne-Catherine Dargis) as an elegant craft beer and wine store. "We've got close to 650 kinds of beer and 150 wines. And that's pretty much it," he says, except for a few soft drinks, candy bars, and chips. They're only there because "Michigan won't license stores that sell only beer and wine, so I'm technically a convenience store" and under legal obligation to carry a few nonalcoholic items.

On the other side of Grillcheezerie is Ann Arbor's latest Bigby Coffee franchise. Who owns it? "I don't believe I'm authorized to give out that information," a counter person replied.

Ed Vielmetti cracked the mystery—he says this is a relocation of Jeannine Mickleit's Courtyard Shops Bigby, pointing out that it has the same phone number. (Media-shy Mickleit also owns a W. Sta-

dium Bigby, and last time we were in there asking about neighborhood changes she asked—none too politely—if we'd leave her and her staff alone.) Vielmetti's A2B3 group is always on the lookout for hangouts, and his lively listserv is often the canary in the coal mine for restaurant openings and closings.

Blue Front, 701 Packard, 929-4618. Mon.-Sat. noon-10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. bluefrontannarbor.com

Bigby, 709 Packard Suite B, 222-7030. Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. bigby.com

David Greenwald, manager of the **Launch Board Shop** on Jackson Rd., isn't a naturally doleful personality, but looking out at the Jackson resurfacing he loses a little of his bounce. "It's a great place, theoretically," he says—just across

Vets Park is the new Ann Arbor Skatepark. "We haven't been kicked in the shins quite as much as other businesses along Jackson Rd. because kids from the Skatepark often roll over here on their boards." Technically, that's illegal though "if you're

going from point A to point B, the cops don't usually care. They'll only tell you to 'pick it up' if you start 'sessioning,'" he says, skateboard talk for commandeering an area to practice tricks. (Police service specialist Chris Briney clarified what Greenwald meant. It's mostly legal to board on city sidewalks "as long as you yield to pedestrians," he says, but "it's always illegal to skateboard on city streets." That makes it impossible to legally ride a skateboard for any stretch longer than a city block.)

Launch is at the moment a small shop entirely devoted to skateboarding, although in the summer he and owner John Causland are considering adding some swimwear and accessories—the shop is almost directly across from Vets Pool.

Serious boarders eventually acquire shoes, tools, multiple boards, and various kinds of safety equipment, all of which are carried here. Greenwald shows off one thing that's trending at the moment: Penny boards. "They're all-plastic, light, retro. You can stick them in a backpack."

Launch Board Shop, 2321 Jackson, 827-9583. Mon.-Fri. 3-7 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. launchboardshop.com

Chela's on Stone School Rd. has been replaced by the equally authentic taqueria **El Ranchito**. Owner Guillermo "Willie" Lopez is from the Monterrey area in Mexico. He also owns Willie's Painting Service, which is why the otherwise new restaurant got a paint job. "The walls were too plain," he laughs, describing how he used a spatula and a dry brush to give them some texture.

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Times sources confirm:

holiday dessert is a piece of cake

In a recent poll conducted by Times statisticians, 99.99999% of readers say the best part of holiday gatherings is: DESSERT! This year, party hosts can relax and spend more time with family and friends, and less time in the kitchen by reserving cakes, pies and cookies from Zingerman's Bakehouse. Check out www.zingermansbakehouse.com for the full menu of special holiday sweets.

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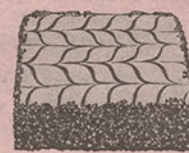
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Peanut Brittle Tops Gift Lists of Candy-Loving Times Readers

Is it the hearty, flavorful Jumbo Runner peanuts? Is it the sweetly satisfying crunch? Or maybe it's because Oprah's O magazine raved "This luscious handmade candy bar puts the vending machine stuff to shame." An on-going investigation suggests it's a combination of all of these qualities that make this candy in demand this holiday season.

Ship peanut brittle coast to coast from www.zingermans.com.

Times Readers Say Cheese for Manchester Month at the Creamery

Local cheese lovers are all smiles this winter because they have many ways to enjoy one of Zingerman's Creamery's signature cheeses—the earthy, rich Camembert-style Manchester—at special prices, all month long!



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Reports of Airborne Bacon Taking Off From Ann Arbor

Sightings of UFP (Unidentified Flying Pork) are up across the U.S. this holiday season, according to a NASA investigation. According to insiders, this phenomenon is the result of local Times readers sending Zingerman's Bacon of the Month Club to food lovers around the country for the holiday.



Available in 3 and 6 month installments, the club features "the country's finest slabs of hog," according to Men's Journal, and makes a "fantastic gift," says Bobby Flay. Each shipment contains 12 to 16 ounces of artisan bacon, bacon stories, histories and recipes, plus a bacon booklet keepsake primer and awesome pig magnet with first club shipment.

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Marketplace Changes

He's sometimes working there himself, but if he's out on a painting job bilingual Lupita will be minding the front of the house and sometimes helping chef Tony with the cooking. The fridge is filled with Jarritos. Freshly-roasted poblanos are resting in the cooler. Hardly anything is over ten bucks. Breakfast is served anytime you ask for it: "It's not too much trouble to make some eggs." What more can you ask?

El Ranchito, 4079 Stone School (Stone Plaza), 368-9386. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.

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"I promise I won't move again," says Jill Damon of **16 Hands**, who has moved into what used to be Mathilde's Imports. When she moved from Main St. to Kerrytown three years ago, she shared a second floor space with Hollander's Kitchen & Home. (Retail just doesn't seem to like that spot on the second floor over Hollander's—after several tries, it now houses FarmLogs, which produces software for farmers.)

Damon has lots of holiday gift ideas. If you're going local, Marlene Dusbiber's hand-carved birds of Michigan can be hung on Christmas trees or outside on branches. If you're into Detroit wreckage, she suggests Lead Head Glass terrariums made from salvaged Detroit glass and metal. And if you just plain miss Leonie Lacouette's clocks that were a popular, though high-end, gift at Selo Shevel, Damon has them now.

16 Hands, 407 N. Fifth, 761-1110. Holiday hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 16handsgallery.com

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Jay Singh confirmed that his lease expired at **Raja Rani**, and, while the restaurant will continue as Raja Rani, it will be run by Taste of India Suvai on State St. (The arrangement was also confirmed by the person who answered the phone at Suvai, though owners Mohana Krishnalal and Lakshmanan Muthu didn't return the call.) "It was a management decision," says Singh. "Support has been tremendous and overwhelming the last few days." Ann Arbor is his home, he says, and he would eventually like to open another restaurant here.

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Stamatopoulos & Sons Olive Oil opened at the Colonnade selling "small-batch, single-varietal olive oil from southwest Greece," says Greg (Grigorios, actually) Stamatopoulos. "There are about five hundred varieties of olives, and you can make oil from any of them." Both his parents' families are from the olive country in the Messenia region of southwest Greece ("literally no traffic lights within a hundred kilometers of their hometowns") and Greg imports all of his olive oil from their farms and others in the area, where they make oil exclusively from the *koroneiki*

olive. "Most olive oils you buy are blends. It's still pretty rare to be able to get single-source olive oil, but it's like wine, or coffee. Things are moving that direction."

While he sells some flavored, infused oils, the *koroneiki* olive oil is best experienced, he says, in its pure form. At the moment, it's about a dollar an ounce for a smooth, buttery version, slightly more for bolder, grassier-tasting oils. He says prices fluctuate by supply and demand.

He also carries flaked sea salts, organic saffron, balsamic vinegars, and herbs, notably *Sideritis athoa*, aka "Greek mountain tea. It's a home remedy for everything: headaches, colds, pain. It gives you energy but has no caffeine. Just a few leaves in boiling water." If you need more precise instruction, he'll be hosting twice-weekly visits from herbalist Maggie David.

Stamatopoulos & Sons Extra Virgin Olive Oil, 869 W. Eisenhower (Colonnade), 369-2995. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. stamsons.com

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"Greek street food" is how Kirk Blohm describes **Mezes Greek Grill** in half of the former Sushi.com space on North University. Blohm says he's the only one of the four owners who isn't Greek, but "I look and act like it. I've been working with them so long, it's rubbed off on me, like paint." The other partners are Dimitri Roumanis; his father, Sam, who owns the building; and Stavro Sianos.

Blohm is the wisecracking presence behind the counter with St. Michael's prayer in Latin tattooed on his arm, most of the time personally making the souvlakis and gyros. "The gyros cone"—that rotating tower of meat—"is hand stacked. We make it ourselves with slabs of beef and lamb. You are not going to find better Greek food anywhere, especially for this price. And I don't say this because I work here. I say it because it's true." He goes on to talk about the synergy that is developing between Mezes, Silvio's Pizza, and Miya across the hall. "It's like a food court. We get together and talk to each other all the time about how to work together—this bread that comes with your lentil soup is Silvio's organic bread."

Mezes Greek Grill, 715 North University, 369-2204. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Sun. noon-8 p.m. mezesgrill.com

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"I'm Irish. It's hard to be succinct," says Stuart Marley, but he did an admirable job describing his Real Irish store opening at the end of November in the Arbor Hills space next to Zola Bistro. Concentrating hard not to go off on a tangent, he says: "The store is going to be primarily Irish woolens, both hand knits and woven. We have our own label on quite a few of the products we sell. We have them made by knitters in Ireland. The traditional Aran sweaters, and more fashion-forward clothing too. We're not trying to appeal to an Irish market per se but to people who

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Marketplace Changes

value quality. Upscale," he says, savoring the word, with his delicate Irish accent. Marley formerly had a warehouse store off Ellsworth Rd.

Two more changes took place in late fall at Arbor Hills. Here, as across the country, **Hot Mama** stores became **Evereve**, swapping the language of Latino street gangs describing their girlfriends for the language of Madison Ave. execs inventing feminine hygiene products. Inside it's the same store, though—clothing for women age twenty-five through fifty.

Also, **Glass Box** coffee suddenly closed (as did its tiny original store on South U); see Closings.

Real Irish, 3030 Washtenaw (Arbor Hills), 846-2025. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m. realirish.com

In the Works

Construction is well underway at **Menards** on Jackson Rd. Spaulding Clark, Scio's township supervisor, says he doesn't know when it will open. "They're a closely held corporation; they've done this at their own pace"—in fact, the company sought and received planning permission months before it actually broke ground on the property. "As for why they chose to be here, they didn't tell us," says Clark.

The Wisconsin-based building supply company will be just down the road from Lowe's, the way Lowe's is practically on top of Home Depot over on the east side of town. "They did their own background research. And their proposal was consistent with our master plan." Several years ago Scio Township widened Jackson Rd. and brought in sewer and water, with the intent of opening it up for commercial development. "I've never been in a Menards," pronounced with an accent on the second syllable, by the way. "But what they promote is their lumber operation. So, yes, I guess they're not just competing with Lowe's, but with Fingerle's and Chelsea Lumber."

Closings

Sometime between Thanksgiving and the first week of December Tom Ungrodt says he'll be closing the **Crown House of Gifts** in Traver Village. His father started the store over fifty years ago in Adrian, though its longest incarnation was on State near Liberty. Ungrodt says, with rueful understatement, "retail isn't a growth area." But he's having some success helping other retailers at least hang on—the family's other company, Ideation, supplies catalogs and mailing services to gift shops around the country. Ungrodt also owns Dayspring Gifts in Chelsea, a "testing platform for the catalog group."

With its usual flair for marketing, **Kmart** at Maple Village, which announced its closing right before Halloween, was doggedly selling its Halloween merchandise at full price on Halloween day and

only 10 percent off the day after. The lines at the register, as usual, were short, though they picked up quite a bit on November 2, when its liquidation sale started.

Of course Kmart's problems are not particular to Ann Arbor. Kmart and Sears stores are closing all over the country as the now-paired chains continue to struggle under the ownership of hedge fund magnate Eddie Lampert. This is the last Kmart in Washtenaw County, and its closing on January 18 will leave a big hole in the Maple Village shopping center. "We are in active lease negotiations at Maple Village on North Maple Rd., but we do not have any tenant announcements at this time," writes Kristen Moore, spokesperson for the landlord, Brixmor Property Group.

Courtney Clark is closing her **Cake Nouveau** to take care of two small children. Her retail shop has become more of a sideline since she moved from the Kerrytown area to Packard. She's always been mainly a high-end custom cake business, and the larger space on Packard next to Morgan & York allowed her to teach classes. Still, the *Wall Street Journal* reports that the cupcake business in general is beginning to fade. Clark didn't return calls and emails.

Glassbox Coffee suddenly closed both its tiny original location next to its landlord Campus Realty on South U and its spacious Arbor Hills spot. While nominally Glassbox was owned and operated by Jason Friend, it turns out it was largely dependent on the largesse of a single investor—whose sudden withdrawal of support led to the closing of both locations.

Our November roundup of "hyper-local micro businesses" included the reopened **Garden Cafe** in Huron Towers. Soon after our item appeared, owner Mercedes Lyons left a voicemail to report that "unfortunately, me and my co-owner had to close the restaurant." She didn't return a message asking if she wanted to share any details.

Bruce Dobbs will close **Dobbs Optical** in the Colonnade on December 31. His father started the business in 1943 in Ypsilanti, and at one time, Bruce and two brothers each had branches of Dobbs Optical in Ann Arbor. Those two brothers passed away in the early aughts, but a fourth brother is still working at Dobbs Optical in Kalamazoo (though he no longer owns it).

Asked if Costco made any inroads on his business, Dobbs laughs: "Not to sound haughty, but what I sell is a different type of eyewear." Some of his lines only have two or three dealers in Michigan. But "I lost more business to this stupid road construction. They had the [Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.] bridge shut down for several months. People couldn't get here."

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email sallymitani@gmail.com or leave voicemail at (734) 769-3175 x 309. ■



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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com, but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.

The Alley

2830 Baker Rd., Dexter 426-4707

This bar and grill (until recently known as Katie's Food & Spirits) features live music Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and occasional other nights. Also, DJ on Wed. 8-10 p.m. and karaoke on Tues. & Thurs. 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 5: The Medicine Men.** This local quartet plays danceable 60s-80s rock covers from the Doors to the Allman Brothers to Lynyrd Skynyrd. Remainder of December schedule TBA.

The Arena

203 E. Washington 222-9999

This downtown sports bar features live music Mon. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Laith Al-Saadi Trio.** An eclectic mix of roots Americana, classic rock, and blues, including many originals, by a jazz-tinged, jam-oriented trio led by local singer-guitarist Al-Saadi. With drummer Skeeto Valdez and bassist Jordan Schug.

The Ark

316 S. Main 761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon.-Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and theark.org, and at the door. **Dec. 3: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (members & students, \$2). **Dec. 4: The Appleseed Collective.** Popular young local acoustic quartet whose music is an enchanting blend of lyric-based folk-rock with Dixieland and gypsy jazz rhythms and harmonies. "It's as if The Hot Club of Cowtown bumped into The Vagaband in a woodland clearing and battled off," says *Americana* UK critic Jeremy Searle in his review of the band's 2013 CD *Young Love*. "But even that doesn't really do justice to their sound, as there are bits of New Orleans, Roma, backwoods blues and a whole lot more in their melting pot." Tonight the band celebrates the release of a new live CD recorded at the Ark. \$15. **Dec. 5: "Vincent York's Jazzistry Presents a Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald."** This local jazz education ensemble led by York, a veteran alto saxophonist who has played with everyone from Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan to Aretha Franklin and the Temptations, celebrates the iconic jazz vocalist with a program featuring such classics as "Oh, Lady Be Good" and "What a Wonderful World." With big-voiced Detroit jazz singer Shahida Nurullah, trumpeter-vocalist David Greene, pianist Gary Schunk, bassist Marion Hayden, and drummer Pete Siers. \$20. **Dec. 6: Christine Lavin & Don White.** Singer-songwriter duo. A veteran New York City artist who has been described as a mix of Bette Midler, Tom Lehrer, Steve Goodman, and Janis Ian, Lavin is known for the sharp wit and comically warped perspectives of songs like "Stop Sobbing... He's an Idiot" and "Tom Cruise Scares Me." She's also known for her bittersweet miniatures of lost romance, and she's a tastily tuneful composer, a superb guitarist, and a playfully unpredictable performer whose shows are always sprinkled with a healthy dose of between-songs humor and spiky commentary. White, whose fans include Lavin and Livingston Taylor, is a veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, who writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. He's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Winning Streak*. \$25. **Dec. 7: John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band.** Bluegrass standards and originals by this ensemble led by singer-guitarist Jorgenson, a founding member of the Desert Rose Band and the Hellcasters who's also a recognized pioneer in the revival of the music of Django Reinhardt—Jorgenson even portrayed Reinhardt in the 2004 film *Head in the Clouds*. His all-star band also includes

Laith Al-Saadi

Playing eight days a week

"Have Venue, Will Play" should be Laith Al-Saadi's motto. If it's a night of the week, he's probably playing somewhere. I recently caught an Al-Saadi show at the Arena sports bar, where he plays a regular late Monday-night gig. Accompanied by Skeeto Valdez on drums and David Stearns on bass (though Jordan Schug often fills in for Stearns on Mondays), Al-Saadi demonstrated why he's considered a virtuoso on guitar. Big and burly, with the appearance of a latter-day Allen Ginsberg, a Greg Allman-esque voice, and Warren Haynes axe skills, Al-Saadi opened the show with the Band's "Up on Cripple Creek" and Albert King's "Born Under a Bad Sign." He and his band nailed both covers, but the third song, "Last Time You'll See Me Cry," one of his originals from his 2013 album *Real*, stood out.

Born and raised in Ann Arbor, Al-Saadi studied jazz guitar and bass at the U-M. His 2004 debut album, *Long Time Coming*, is very jazz-rock oriented. By his second album, *In the Round*, released four years later, he'd switched gears, and most of the songs were primarily blues- and rock-influenced. Both albums were recorded in Ann Arbor at Big Sky Recording. *Real*, his third album (technically a six-song EP with a pair of alternate-take bonus tracks), stays in the vein of *In the Round* but is a more rootsy and well-honed composition. *Real* was recorded at Hollywood's legendary Ocean Way Recording during a one-day,

nine-hour session, in which the music went straight to two-track with no overdubs or edits. There, Al-Saadi was backed by a hand-selected group of famous studio musicians, including drummer Jim Keltner, bassist Lee Sklar, organist Larry Goldings, and saxophonist Tom Scott.

Al-Saadi describes music as a conversation. He enjoys the spontaneity and the interactions between himself and his fellow musicians, as well as between band and audience. That was the inspiration behind *Real*—to keep it real: no auto-tuning, no cut-and-paste editing, just live studio tracks straight to tape. This philosophy carries over to Al-Saadi's performances, too. At the Arena, he, Valdez, and Stearns were having a blast despite playing without a stage in front of a large-screen TV at a sports bar. The chemistry was terrific. They played a few more covers, including Jimi Hendrix's "Manic Depression" and the Grateful Dead's "Tennessee Jed," before turning primarily to Al-Saadi originals: "How It's Gonna Be," the gospel-tinged "Gone," and a long version of "What it Means," complete with bass, drum, and guitar solos and a Led Zeppelin "Heartbreaker" tease neatly inserted in the middle, began the second set. All three songs appear on *Real*. Four more originals followed: one more from *Real* and three from *In the Round*, before another pair of covers (Elmore James/the Allman Brothers' "One Way Out" and the Grateful Dead's



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"Mississippi Half-Step Uptown Todeloo") finished the show.

In addition to the trio's regular Monday gig at the Arena, Laith Al-Saadi also plays solo shows most Tuesdays at the Black Pearl. He'll be at the Habitat Lounge in Weber's Inn on Dec. 11, and he's one of the guest stars in the Ragbirds' annual Ebird & Friends holiday show at the Ark on Dec. 13.

—Chris Berggren

banjoist Herb Pederson, guitarist Jon Randall, and bassist Mark Finn. \$20. **Dec. 8: Sam Amidon.** This Vermont-bred folksinger, fiddler, and banjoist performs traditional songs in transformative original arrangement that draw on a range of modern and contemporary idioms. "Amidon creates songs with familiar traditional tones and structures and bends them in all sorts of unusual directions, from subtly jazzy to quietly psychedelic," says the *Burlington (Vermont) Free Press*. Amidon has a brand-new Nonesuch CD, *Lily-O*, and he performs tonight with his band. \$15. **Dec. 9: "Nick Lowe's Quality Holiday Revue."** This veteran English rocker has done as much as anyone to turn pop-rock from a term of abuse to a term of respect in the rock lexicon. Back in the mid-70s he was one of the first to write songs that combined the gemlike gloss and finesse of the ideal pop song with the irreverent wit and unruly passion of rock 'n' roll. Tonight he showcases songs from his 2013 Christmas CD, *Quality Street*, and he performs both solo and backed by **Los Straitjackets**, the renowned Nashville-based instrumental rock 'n' roll quartet. Opening act is **Ian McLagan**, the former Small Faces pianist who has collaborated with everyone from the Stones and Dylan to Paul Westerberg and Billy Bragg. His repertoire is a virtual encyclopedia of rock 'n' roll, R&B, and blues styles. \$35. **Dec. 10: Open Stage.** See above. **Dec. 11: Over the Rhine.** Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. They also have some terrific Christmas songs they like to trot out this time of year, and their new CD, *Blood Oranges in the Snow*, includes a cover of Merle Haggard's "If We Make It Through December" and a collection of originals the band refers to as "reality Christmas." Opening act is **Lily & Madeleine**, the Indianapolis pop-folk singer-songwriter duo of siblings Lily and Madeleine Jurkiewicz, who are known for their breathtaking vocal harmonies. \$30. **Dec. 12: Johnnyswim.** Nashville-based

husband-and-wife duo of Abner Ramirez and Amanda Sudano (the daughter of the late disco diva Donna Summer), whose repertoire includes both soul- and blues-anchored pop-folk originals and covers of songs by everyone from Edith Piaf to Britney Spears. Their show tonight features a romantic collection of seasonal tunes. \$25. **Dec. 13: "Ebird & Friends Holiday Show."** Erin Zindle, the fiery fiddling frontwoman of the classy local progressive country-rock band the Ragbirds who has also released a solo CD, *Scenes from the Fragile, Agile Avian World*, is joined by several established and up-and-coming luminaries of the local music scene for her very popular annual program of new and old holiday music. Participants include blues, jazz, and early rock 'n' roll guitar wiz **George Bedard**, blues & blues-rock guitarist **Laith Al-Saadi**, Appleseed Collective fiddler **Katie Lee**, singer-songwriter **Jen Sygit**, FlashClash frontman **Yorg Kerasiotis**, members of the local "disco bebop" jam band **The Macpodz**, the local fiddle & cello duo **Moxie Strings**, Gaelic Storm fiddler **Kiana June Weber**, and others TBA. \$25. **Dec. 14: The Lone Bellow.** Brooklyn-based country-soul trio whose music sets songs of heartache and tribulation to music driven by swelling 3-part vocal harmonies and rousing group choruses. Opening act is **Robert Ellis**, a Nashville-based, Houston-bred country-rock singer-songwriter whose influences range from Ray Price and Buck Owens to Jackson Browne and the Rolling Stones. \$20. **Dec. 15: Josh Shilling & Tim Shelton.** An evening of bluegrass Christmas music by the duo of Mountain Heart singer-pianist Shilling and NewFound Road guitarist and frontman Shelton. \$15. **Dec. 16: Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band.** Sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble founded shortly after WWII by Hugh Borde and currently composed of Borde and several members of his family. \$15. **Dec. 17: Delbert McClinton.** Legendary Texas honky-tonk singer-songwriter whose music effortlessly melds country, blues, rock 'n' roll, and R&B traditions. A superb blues harpist, McClinton got his start as a teenager in the 50s backing blues masters like Howlin' Wolf and Jimmy Reed in San

Antonio bars. Though his own records have typically enjoyed only a cult following, the likes of Emmylou Harris and Vince Gill have turned songs of his into hits, and he has recorded hit duets with Bonnie Raitt, Tanya Tucker, and others. McClinton's gotten even better with age: his recent recordings evince a relaxed mastery without losing the gritty swagger and drive that's always distinguished his music, and his 2009 CD *Acquired Taste* topped the *Billboard* blues chart. \$50. **Dec. 18: Adam Plomaritis and Jason Dennie & Thunderwüde.** Double bill. Plomaritis is an Ypsilanti Americana singer-songwriter who has released a Kickstarter-funded CD, and Thunderwüde is a Chelsea trio led by fingerstyle guitarist Dennie that plays bluegrass originals and bluegrass-style covers of pop hits. With guitarist George Merkel and multi-instrumentalist Wes Fritzeimer. \$15. **Dec. 19: The RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites who have appeared in numerous festivals and on the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. \$11 at the door only. **Dec. 20: George Winston.** Solo acoustic concert by this Grammy-winning pianist. He is best known for the soothingly melodic, impressionistic compositions heard on his Windham Hill recordings, but Winston is also an accomplished stride and R&B player. His live shows draw on both sides of his musical personality. His latest CD, *Love Will Come: The Music of Vince Guaraldi, Vol. 2*, is a collection that includes several of the late jazz pianist's pieces written for the *Peanuts* cartoons. \$45. **Dec. 26 & 27: "Mick Gavin's Crossroads Ceili."** Two evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance featuring **Mick Gavin & Family**, a veteran Detroit Irish music ensemble led by fiddler (and County Clare native) Gavin, along with members of the prominent Cape Breton Celtic music **MacLeod and Rankin families**, vocalist **Eileen Plunkett**, and dancers from the Detroit-area **Heinzman and O'Hare schools of Irish dance**. \$15 (\$25 by reservation only includes dinner at Conor O'Neill's). 7:30 p.m.

The B-Side

310 E. Washington 214-9995

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7-11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 5: "First Friday."** With DJs & live music TBA. Preceded at 6 p.m. by an interactive art exhibit. No cover. 8-10 p.m. **Dec. 19: "Open Mike."** All acoustic musicians, rappers, poets, and other performers invited.

Bar Louie

401 E. Liberty 794-3000

This downtown tavern features live music Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Also, salsa dancing with a DJ on Wed. & Fri. 10:30 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 6: No music. Dec. 13: Michael May & the Mes-sarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 20: Brett Mitchell & the Giant Ghost.** Midland pop-rock band led by Mitchell, a singer-songwriter and drummer whom *Grand Rapids Press* music critic John Sinkevics calls "the new millennium's version of Marshall Crenshaw." **Dec. 27: The Alligators.** Detroit R&B and blues band.

The Black Pearl

302 S. Main 222-0400

This seafood and martini bar features live music Tues. 8-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 2: Laith Al-Saadi.** See review, p. 76. Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. His latest CD, *Real*, a collection of songs drawing on blues, country, gospel, and roots rock, was recorded in L.A. with an all-star cast of session legends, including saxophonist Tom Scott, drummer Jim Keltner, and bassist Leland Sklar. **Dec. 9: Jody Raffoul.** Canadian pop-rock singer-songwriter whose music has been described as a hybrid of Bono's and Bruce Springsteen's styles. He is joined by backup vocalist and guitarist Wes Buckley. **Dec. 16 & 23: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Dec. 30: Billy Raffoul.** Canadian pop-rock singer-songwriter and guitarist with a soulful vocal style.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local club features live music most Wed.-Sat. and occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional live shows, usually 7-10 p.m. Cover, dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at etix.com. **Dec. 3: TBA. Dec. 4: That Freak Quincy.** Kalamazoo funk-rock jam band. Opening acts are Jay Fry, a local singer-guitarist who performs rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers, and Stormy Chromer, a local progressive jam-rock quartet. **Dec. 5: Ann Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Dec. 6: The Soil & the Sun.** Self-styled "New Mexican space rock" featuring resonant harmonies, layered melodies, and swift-running rhythms by this 7-piece ensemble from Grand Rapids. Instrumentation includes oboe, violin, guitars, accordion, percussion, piano, keys and vocals. Opening acts TBA. Advance tickets: \$8 (\$10 at the door). **Dec. 8: Jon McLaughlin.** Popular funk-inflected pop-rock singer-songwriter from Anderson, Indiana. Opening act is Andy Davis, a Nashville-based, Louisiana-based acoustic pop-soul singer-songwriter. Advance tickets: \$15. **Dec. 10: Dej Loaf.** Detroit hip-hop MC and songwriter who gained national popularity with her hit single "Try Me." Opening acts are Detroit hip-hop MC Prada Leary, Detroit underground hip-hop MC Supakaine, and Ypsilanti hip-hop MC DaG. Advance tickets: \$15 (\$20 at the door). **Dec. 11: TBA. Dec. 12: TBA. Dec. 13: TBA. Dec. 17: TBA. Dec. 18: Rootstand.** Local band whose music blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. Opening acts are the local self-styled "upbeat global soul" pop-jazz jam quartet October Babies, the local rootsy country-pop band Paul's Big Radio, the Pontiac electronica jam band Sunlab, and local reggae DJ Jah Sunny. **Dec. 19: TBA. Dec. 20: TBA. Dec. 26: TBA. Dec. 27: "House of Chanel Holiday Party."** With performances by the Ypsilanti drag queen divas Jennifer Holiday, Maxi Chanel, and Forrest Lee. **Dec. 31: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock.

The Blue Nile

221 E. Washington 998-4746

This downtown restaurant features live music, Fri. & Sat. 6-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Louis Johnson.** Jazz standards and New Ethiopian jazz by this local pianist and saxophonist. On Saturdays he is joined by bassist Will Austin and other friends TBA.

Cafe Verde

214 N. Fourth Ave. 994-4589

This café in the People's Food Co-op features acoustic musicians and duos, Thurs. 6-8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.** (except Dec. 25): TBA.

The Cavern Club

210 S. First St. 913-8890

This downtown basement club in the Celebration Cellars banquet space features occasional live music, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. There is also sometimes music in the street-level Millennium Club and Gotham City and the 2nd-floor Circus Bar & Billiards. Also, karaoke in the Circus, Wed.-Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Occasional cover, dancing. **Dec. 6: Killer Flamings.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. In the Millennium Club. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Bash."** With the Killer Flamings (see above) in the Millennium Club, DJs in the Cavern Club and Gotham City, and karaoke in the Circus. \$50 cover includes a champagne toast at midnight and an all-night dinner & dessert buffet. 8 p.m.-4 p.m.

Common Cup

1511 Washtenaw 327-6914

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment occasional Fri. No cover, no dancing. December schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665-2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30-10 p.m. and Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Fri. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.: Shaun Garth Walker.** Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Dec. 4: Don & Dickie.** Duo of guitarist Don Sicheneder and banjoist Rich Delcamp from the popular local roots music sextet Dragon Wagon. **Dec. 6: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by these local brothers. **Dec. 11: Brother Crowe.** Traditional Irish songs of drinking and rebellion, accompanied on a wide array of instruments, by this Detroit-area duo formerly known as Bruno's Boys. **Dec. 13: Acoustic Rewind.** See Habitat. **Dec. 18: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Dec. 20: Midwest Territory Band.** Self-styled "jug-band jazz" by this local ensemble led by blues-oriented vocalist and guitar virtuoso Rollie Tussing. **Dec. 27: Social Bones.** Detroit country-rock jam band.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665-9468

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8:30-10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 5: Dan Hazlett.** This Detroit-area singer-songwriter and guitarist plays blues, R&B, folk, and jazz-influenced originals on topics that range from the outlandish to the sublime. **Dec. 6: The Surefires.** Local Americana duo of veteran singer-songwriter and multi-instrumental string player Bill Edwards and vocalist Shannon Lea Linsea that features shimmering vocal harmonies. **Dec. 12: Chris Degnore.** Blues-flavored pop-rock singer-songwriter from Detroit. **Dec. 13: Ghost City Searchlight.** Dearborn postpunk quartet whose music draws on Celtic and American folk idioms. **Dec. 19: Robin Monterosso.** Twangy Americana with blues and soul flavors by this Metro Detroit singer-songwriter who at age 47 recently released her first CD, *What I Didn't Say*. **Dec. 20: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Dec. 26: Steve Kovich.** Detroit singer-songwriter. **Dec. 27: David Nefesh.** Veteran folk-rock singer-songwriter from Royal Oak, a 6-time Detroit Music Award nominee.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. 827-2737

The intimate basement bar in this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 28: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late 1930s swing and 1940s R&B. With vocalist Patty O'Connor. Tonight's program focuses on Duke Ellington's *Nutcracker*. 6:30-9 p.m.

Crossroads

517 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 340-5597

This bar & grill near EMU features live music alternate Wed. 7:30-11 p.m., and most Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. "Hari Karaoke," Thurs. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.-Sat. only), dancing. **Dec. 3: Blues Jam.** Hosted by Blues Dog Inquisition, an Ypsilanti quintet that plays hard-driving classic Chicago blues. All blues players invited. **Dec. 5: "DJ Mar-velous Birthday Party."** With local hip-hop MCs Keena Winterz, Meg Good, Team Shack, Dro Hunned, Dye Dav, Young Streetz, and B-Pat, along with DJ On Demand. Hosted by Koz Nation. **Dec. 6: The Howling Loud.** Local postpunk rock 'n' roll duo of singer-guitarist Jason Harthcock and drummer Matt Densmore. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 12: Lizerd.** Ypsilanti postpunk rock 'n' roll quintet. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 13: No music. Dec. 17: Blues Jam.** See above. **Dec. 19: Blues Dog Inquisition.** See above. **Dec. 20: "Elbow Deep."** Drag show and gay and lesbian dance night hosted by Maxi and Jennifer of the House of Chanel, with a DJ TBA. **Dec. 26: TBA. Dec. 27: Muruga & the Cosmic Hoedown Band.** See Live. With other performers TBA, in celebration of frontman Muruga Booker's birthday.

The Elks Lodge

220 Sunset 761-7172

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features soul food and live jazz, blues, & rock Fri. & Sat. 7-10 p.m. Also, DJs, Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, usually no cover except for DJ shows. Members and guests welcome. **Every Sat.: TBA. Dec. 5: TBA. Dec. 12: TBA. Dec. 13: West Park Music Society.** Local dance band whose music mixes jazz, Latin, and pop. Tonight's show includes several holiday standards and originals. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, guitarist Kip Godwin, guitarist and woodwinds player Jim Cooney, clarinetist and conga player Charles Day-ringer, and bassist Tim Berla. 6:30-10 p.m. **Dec. 19: TBA. Dec. 26: TBA.**

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. 769-9800

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. (except holiday weekends), 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 6: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio.** Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rockers performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. **Dec. 13: Laura Rain & the Caesars.** See Mash. **Dec. 20: Root Doctor.** Lansing quintet led by vocalist Freddie Cunningham that plays a rich, varied blues and R&B repertoire that ranges from ZZ Hill to Billie Holiday to B.B. King to Bobby "Blue" Bland. **Dec. 27: No music. Dec. 31: The Chris Canas Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas. See Mash. Opening act is The Bluescasters, a veteran local quartet that plays intense, low-down blues and blues-rock. \$29 cover includes champagne toast and hors d'oeuvres buffet at midnight. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

The Habitat Lounge

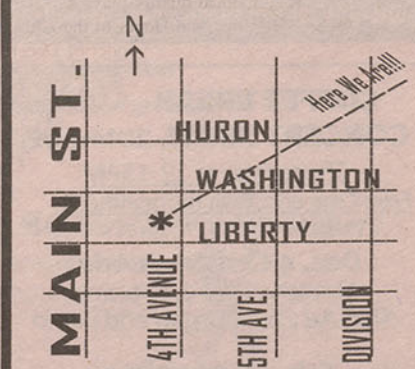
3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.-Thurs. 8:45 p.m.-12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8:45 p.m.-1:30 a.m., along with jazz Sun. 7-11 p.m. Also, a DJ Mon., 7 p.m.-midnight, and solo pianists Tues.-Sun., 6-8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: James Cornelison Quartet.** Jazz originals and standards by this U-M music student ensemble led by electric guitarist Cornelison. **Dec. 2-4: Acoustic Rewind.** 80s and 90s pop covers by this Detroit acoustic duo. **Dec. 5: Dan Dahsoulman & Jake Lives Band.** See Mash. **Dec. 6: Free Lance.** Pop, rock, and funk dance band from Canton. **Dec. 9 & 10: Scotty Alexander Duo.** Pop-rock covers by everyone from Elton John and Lionel Richie to Matchbox Twenty and Kings of Leon by this duo led by Brighton singer-pianist Alexander. **Dec. 11: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Black Pearl. **Dec. 12 & 13: Big Will & 360 Degrees.** Versatile pop dance septet from Troy, fronted singer-keyboardists William Elijah and Diana McNary, whose repertoire ranges from R&B, rock, and hip-hop to Latin, jazz standards, and New Country. **Dec. 16-18: Slice.** Veteran East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Dec. 19 & 20: The Front Men.** Detroit vintage-rock band. **Dec. 23: Rick Canzano.** Northville pop-rock multi-instrumentalist. **Dec. 26 & 27: Dan Dahsoulman & Jake Lives Band.** See Mash. **Dec. 30: Rick Canzano.** See above. **Dec. 31: The Front Men.** See above. Also, in the Weber's inn ballroom, The Jerry Ross Band, a 7-piece Detroit show band.

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comics check the listings
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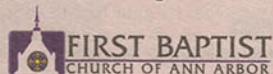
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Music at Nightspots

The Heidelberg Club Above

215 N. Main 663-7758

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music Thurs. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. & Sat. 6-9 p.m. Also, DJs with dance club music Wed. & Fri. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. DJs with Latin dance music Sat. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. (preceded at 10 p.m. by dance lessons). Dancing, no cover. **Every Sat.:** Happy hour bands TBA. **Every Thurs.:** Open Mike. All musicians invited. **Dec. 13:** Grupo Estilo. Detroit bachata and salsa dance band. 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

LIVE

102 S. First St. 623-1443

This lounge, recently remodeled and under new management, features live music Fri. & Sat. happy hour 6:30-9 p.m. and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.-Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Dec. 5:** FUBAR. 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis and Steve Earle. 6:30-9 p.m. **Dec. 6:** Anna Lee's Company. Local bluegrass- and funk-inflected folk-rock quintet whose influences range from the Band and Little Feat to Medeski Martin & Wood and Old Crow Medicine Show. **Dec. 12:** George Bedard & the Kingpins. Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. Bedard's tasty 2011 all-instrumental CD, *Pickin' Apart the Past*, includes "Minor Swing '65," Bedard's surf-music adaptation of a Django Reinhardt tune, and he has a new live CD, *Further On*, a collection of vintage and original blues that's highlighted by a show-stopping rendition of "Hawaiian Boogie." **Dec. 13:** The Cattlelog Orchestra. Brighton world music quartet. **Dec. 19:** Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys. Veteran local Western swing and classic country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. **Dec. 20:** The Breakers. Veteran local classic rock band that plays 60s-80s covers. **Dec. 26:** The Terraplanes. Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. **Dec. 27:** Muruga & the Cosmic Hoedown Band. Versatile local worldbeat jam-funk band led by Muruga Booker, a renowned percussionist who has played with the likes of George Clinton, Jerry Garcia, and Weather Report.

Mash

211 E. Washington 222-4095

This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Wed. 9 p.m.-midnight and Thurs.-Sat. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Weekend happy hour music, 6-9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 3:** Abigail Stauffer. Local singer-songwriter with a rich, resonant alto voice who's known for her piercing, emotionally direct pop-folk and pop-rock songs. She released her debut CD, *Alone to Dream*, in 2011, and she recently completed her sophomore effort. **Dec. 4:** Laura Rain & the Caesars. An intense fusion of funk, soul, and blues by this Detroit quintet fronted by vocalist Rain. **Dec. 5:** Mike Vial. Howell pop-rock singer-songwriter. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 5:** Nobody's Business. Redford blues and blues-rock band. **Dec. 6:** Robert Johnson. Solo acoustic folk and blues by this Northville singer-guitarist. Preceded at 4 p.m. by a set by students from the local School of Rock. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 6:** The Chris Canas Blues Revolution. Detroit blues band fronted by young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas. **Dec. 10:** Michael May Duo. Duo led by local blues and blues-rock singer-harpist May. **Dec. 11:** Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies. Local roots-rock quartet, led by former Starlight Drifters singer-guitarist Mack, whose repertoire includes originals and rockabilly, early rock 'n' roll, western swing, and hillbilly bop covers. **Dec. 12:** Robert Johnson. See above. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 12:** Dan Dahsoulman & Jake Lives Band. Local septet fronted by vocalist Dan "Dahsoulman" Carter that plays a mix of R&B, soul, and blues. **Dec. 13:** Dan Orcutt. Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter best known through his blues-rock alter ego Nick Strange. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 13:** The Bluescasters. See Guy Hollerin's. **Dec. 17:** The Laura Rain Duo. Duo led by this Detroit blues and soul singer. **Dec. 18:** Ari Teitel Band. Detroit Americana rock ensemble led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Teitel whose music draws on soul, funk, blues, and gospel influences. **Dec. 19:** Abigail Stauffer. See above. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 19:** Dan Dahsoulman & Jake Lives Band. See above. **Dec. 20:** Mike Vial. See above.

6-9 p.m. **Dec. 20:** The Canastas. Local quintet that plays vintage jump blues, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and ska. **Dec. 26:** Laura Rain Duo. See above. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 26:** Michael May & the Messarounds. Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 27:** Michael May Duo. See above. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 27:** The Chris Canas Blues Revolution. See above. **Dec. 31:** Ari Teitel Band. See above.

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main 222-0202

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music Thurs., 8-11 p.m. Also, DJs Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.:** Doug Horn Trio. Classic jazz from the American songbook by this ensemble led by local alto saxophonist Horn. With various drop-in guests TBA.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty 994-5436

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 6 nights a week, Mon.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover, dancing.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty 662-9291

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., Tues., & occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 2:** TBA. **Dec. 7:** Mike Boyd & Brennan Andes. Veteran local alt-country singer-songwriter is joined by the versatile Macpodz bassist Andes. **Dec. 9:** Carl Michel Trio. Jazz ensemble led by this local guitarist. **Dec. 14:** Michael Waite. Singer-songwriter from Marquette who writes finely crafted songs about love, friendship, bad habits, and the good life. **Dec. 16:** Dave Sharp Trio. Straight-ahead jazz trio led by veteran local bassist Sharp. **Dec. 21:** Ben Balmer. Acoustic indie rock singer-songwriter, an Ann Arbor native now living in Austin. **Dec. 23:** TBA. **Dec. 28:** The Hummingbirds. Twang-filled acoustic country and American roots music by the acclaimed Ann Arbor-bred duo of singer-guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Hercula that won a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band before relocating to Tampa several years ago. **Dec. 30:** TBA.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard 662-8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Dec. 2:** "Songwriters Open Mike." All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 23:** "Ukulele Jam." Musicians of all ability levels invited.

The Ravens Club

207 S. Main 214-0400

This downtown bar & grill features live music, Sun. 8-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.:** Heather Black Project. Vintage jazz and blues by an ensemble led by Heather Schwartz, a talented local singer whose vocal style also reflects gospel, R&B, soul, and hip-hop influences.

Rush Street

314 S. Main 913-0330

This martini lounge features nightly DJs, along with live music, Fri. 5-8 p.m., Sun. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., and occasional other nights. Dancing, no cover. **Every Fri. & Sun.:** Legendary Wings. Local jazz quintet that focuses on dynamic, challenging, and less commonly heard music from the modern jazz repertoire interspersed with free improvisation. The usual lineup features saxophonists Dan Bennett and Tim Haldeman, Fender Rhodes electric pianist Matt Endahl, bassist Jordan Schug, and drummer Nick Collins.

Silvio's Organic Pizza

715 North University 214-6666

This campus-area restaurant features live music Thurs. & Sun. 6-8 p.m., Fri. 7-9 p.m., and occasional other nights. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.:** Neal Anderson Quintet. Local jazz ensemble led by trumpeter Anderson. **Every Sun.:** Will Mefford. Improvisations on jazz standards by this local pianist. **Dec. 5:** Steve Rich & Tim Prosser. The local duo of singer-guitarist Rich and singer-songwriter and "mandolin maniac" Prosser performs a mix of acoustic originals and traditional music. Also, guest musicians TBA. **Dec. 12:** Nutshell. Traditional Celtic music infused with influences from various other musical traditions by this local ensemble known for its

rich and varied instrumental textures and stirring solo and harmony vocals. With lead vocalist and bodhran player Linda Teaman, fiddler-vocalist Susie Leland, guitarists Glenn Simon and John Lloyd, and flutist and sitarist Tom Voiles. **Dec. 19:** Isosceles. Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. The band has a new CD, *Triangle*. **Dec. 26:** TBA.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music Thurs. 8 p.m.-midnight, and occasional Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.:** Electric Open Mike. Hosted by The Martindales, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Dec. 6:** Ann Arbor Music Center Adult Blues Band. Ensembles of Ann Arbor Music Center adult students perform covers of John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, and other postwar blues singers. 6-8 p.m.

Vinology

110 S. Main 222-9841

This wine bar and restaurant features live jazz the last 3 Thurs. each month, 8:30-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). **Dec. 4:** Scott Gwinnell Quartet. Postmodern jazz ensemble led by Detroit pianist Gwinnell, the music director of vocalese legend Jon Hendricks' Vocalstra, and featuring trumpeter Paul Finkbeiner. **Dec. 11:** Nicole New. An eclectic mix of jazz with pop and bluegrass flavors by this trio fronted by New, a Detroit vocalist known for her rich tone and rhythmic phrasing. With keyboardist Duncan McMillan and bassist Mike Palazzolo. **Dec. 18:** Gwennyth Hayes Trio. Jazz-soul fusion by this trio fronted by Hayes, a local singer-songwriter and bassist whose music ranges from sultry jazz ballads and neo-soul arrangements to funk grooves and down-and-dirty blues. With keyboardist Patrick Whitehead and drummer D'ane Dawkins.

Wolverine State Brewing Co.

2019 W. Stadium 369-2990

This west-side brewpub features occasional live music, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 5:** Third Coast Kings. Local horn-driven retro funk octet whose eponymous debut CD was released on the Italian funk label Record Kicks.

World of Beer

1300 South University 913-2430

This campus-area bar & grill features live music Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. **Note:** The music programming is temporarily suspended after Dec. 13 while the bar renovates its kitchen. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 5:** Aaron Dombey. Local pop-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 6:** Dan Mazur Duo. Pop and rock covers by a duo led by Dearborn singer-guitarist Mazur. **Dec. 12:** The Takeaways. Local band led by Shaun Garth Walker, a singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Dec. 13:** Dave Menzo. Duo led by this local pop-rock singer-songwriter who recently released the CD *Color Wheel*.

The Yellow Barn

416 W. Huron Ouryellowbarn.com

Closed until at least December.

Zal Gaz Grotto

2070 W. Stadium 663-1202

This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Sun. 5-8 p.m., Mon. 7-10 p.m., Tues. 5:30-8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.:** Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings. This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Mon.:** Paul Keller Orchestra. Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.:** Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band. Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger.

December Events

FILMS

- 97 Film Screenings**
John Hinchey & Katie Whitney

GALLERIES

- 86 Exhibit Openings**
Katie Whitney

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

- 76 Nightspots**
John Hinchey
Laith Al-Saadi
Chris Berggren



Maika Van Oosterhout and Tom Petiet star in the U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society's production of *Ruddigore; or, the Witch's Curse* Dec. 4-7.

EVENTS REVIEWS

- 81 Annapurna**
A mountain and a woman
Sally Mitani
- 89 Rossini's *William Tell***
More than an Overture
arwulf arwulf
- 91 Lorna Goodison**
At home in the garden
Keith Taylor
- 93 Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg**
The ironies of Wagner
Sandor Slomovits
- 95 Ann Arbor Community Messiah Sing**
Half a century of song
Francis Kai-Hwa Wang

We want to know about your event!

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- **By mail:** Katie Whitney, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **By fax:** 769-3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to AnnArborObserver.com).

★ Denotes a free event.

annarborobserver.com:

An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at AnnArborObserver.com. This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on annarborobserver.com.

arbormail:

Get your alerts by email—send a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at AnnArborObserver.com/arbormail_help.html.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.AnnArborObserver.com

1 MONDAY

Conversation with Christopher Taylor: Ann Arbor City Club. The newly elected mayor is joined by City Club president Stephanie Kadel Taras in a discussion of his childhood, teachers who made a difference in his life, his background in the arts, his interest in public service, what he learned from his years on City Council, and his vision for Ann Arbor. Q&A. Breakfast buffet. 7:30-9 a.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$20 (members, \$16) includes breakfast. Reservations required by Nov. 26. annarborcityclub.org, 662-3279, ext. 1.

★**U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens Hike: Hike It, Baby.** All parents with babies invited for an easy 2-mile hike on the trails at Matthaei. No strollers; young walkers may need to be carried for portions of the hike. 10-11 a.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. Hikeitbaby.com

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** Every Mon., Sept. 8-Dec. 8. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. 10-11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church,

900 S. Seventh. Free to visitors (\$100 per semester dues for those who join). 665-9271.

★**"Playgroups for Babies":** Ann Arbor District Library. Every Mon. Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. Note: Play days are also offered at the Malletts Creek (Tues. 10-11 a.m. & Thurs. 6:30-7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Wed. 11 a.m.-noon), and Traverwood (Fri. 10:30-11 a.m.) branches. 10:30-11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (branches).

Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs. except Dec. 25. All ages invited to play non-sanctioned (Mon.) & ACBL-sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs.) duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. Refreshments. 12:30-4 p.m. (Mon.) & Noon-3:45 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$3 (members, \$2) on Mon., \$7 (members, \$6) on Wed. & Thurs. 794-6250.

★**Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Mon. & Fri. All seniors invited to play bridge. Some experience necessary. 12:30-4:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Mon. & Thurs. except Dec. 25. All ages invited to

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AnnArborObserver.com

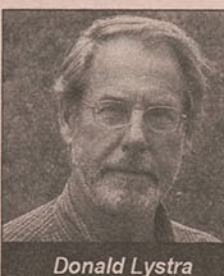
Ann Arbor online
Better than ever.



december highlights

Ann Arbor District Library

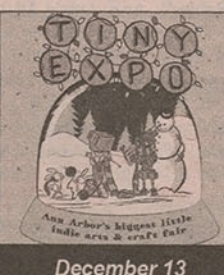
Events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.



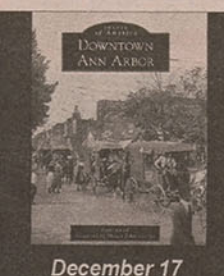
Donald Lystra



Doug French



Classical Bells



December 17



Joe Reilly

- | | | |
|--|-----------|---|
| Monday
7:00 - 8:30 pm | 1 | Around the World with Jeff Price • Hear the story and see the pictures of how this local resident quit his job, sold his possessions, and embarked on a journey around the world |
| Tuesday
7:00 - 8:00 pm | 2 | An Evening with the Yellow Room Gang • Enjoy a concert by this celebrated local group of accomplished musicians! |
| Wednesday
6:00 - 8:00 pm | 3 | Job Seeking Workshop: UMjobs.org • A specialist from the U-M Human Resources office will demonstrate how to search and apply for jobs at U-M • MALLETT'S CREEK BRANCH |
| Wednesday
7:00 - 8:45 pm | 3 | Smell & Tell: The Aromatic Allure of Patchouli • Flavor and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd explores this equally loved and despised scent • GRADE 6 - ADULT |
| Saturday
1:00 - 3:00 | 6 | Learn to Play Mahjongg • Local expert Stuart Baggaley introduces and discusses Mahjongg • TRAVERWOOD BRANCH |
| Sunday
3:00 - 5:00 pm | 7 | NaNoWriMo: "I Wrote a Novel... Now What?" • Michigan native and award-winning author Donald Lystra gives tips on revising your written work and getting published
TRAVERWOOD BRANCH • GRADE 9 - ADULT |
| Monday
4:30 - 6:30 pm | 8 | UMS BOOK DISCUSSION FOR TEACHERS • Creativity, Inc.: Overcoming the Unseen Forces that Stand in the Way of True Inspiration • REGISTRATION REQUIRED: 734.615.0122 or visit the UMS website at ums.org |
| Wednesday
7:00 - 8:30 pm | 10 | All Things Dad with Nationally-Known "Dad Blogger" Doug French • The cofounder of the Dad 2.0 Summit discusses the evolution of the modern dad and a myriad of issues, such as work/life balance and paid parental leave |
| Thursday
7:00 - 9:30 pm | 11 | Nerd Nite Ann Arbor @ LIVE • Cross-genre mini presentations, "... like the Discovery Channel™ with beer..."
LIVE • 102 S. 1ST STREET • DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM |
| Saturday
11:00 am - 5:30 pm | 13 | Tiny Expo: Indie Holiday Arts & Craft Fair • Ann Arbor's biggest little handmade expo is at AADL! • DT LIBRARY LOBBY |
| Saturday
1:00 - 2:00 pm | 13 | Classical Bells Holiday Concert • With 68 bronze plus 6 aluminum English handbells, this popular event is sure to put you in the holiday spirit! • ALL AGES |
| Wednesday
7:00 - 8:30 pm | 17 | Images of America: Downtown Ann Arbor • Local author Patti Smith shares images and stories from her new book |
| Saturday
2:00 - 3:30 pm | 20 | Cork Trivet Making Workshop • Local crafter Dawn Henry leads this fun craft! Corks available, but bring in your own if you'd like • PITTSFIELD BRANCH • GRADE 6 - ADULT |
| Sunday
12:30 - 2:30 pm
OR 3:30 - 5:30 pm | 21 | Mosaic Jewelry Workshop • Learn the art of making mosaic jewelry and create a glass mosaic pendant necklace
DT 4TH FL. MEETING ROOM • GRADE 6 - ADULT |
| Monday
2:00 - 2:45 pm | 29 | Silly Stories with Nicole Williams & Laura Pershin Raynor • Funny folktales for the whole family! • PRESCHOOL - GRADE 3 |
| Tuesday
2:00 - 2:45 pm | 30 | CONCERT • Joe Reilly! • His music invites people of all ages to deepen their relationship with the natural environment and gets everyone moving! • PRESCHOOL - GRADE 5 |

For more information: 327.4555 or aadl.org

play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Lunch available at 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (\$5.50; age 60 & over, \$3; reservations required). 1-3:30 p.m. (Mon.) & 10-11:30 a.m. (Thurs.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 (members, free). 794-6250.

★**ESL Conversation Group:** Ann Arbor District Library. Every Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. through Dec. 22. All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. 1-2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Mon.), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.; 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch (Tues. & Wed.), 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy.; 1-2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Fri.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327-4200.

★**Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Mon. All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. 1-3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★**"Dr. Seuss' Grinch Day":** Barnes & Noble. Storytelling program with the holiday classic *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, followed by coloring and other activities. 4 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**"The Infinitesimals":** U-M Authors Forum. U-M English professor **Laura Kasischke**, a nationally acclaimed poet and novelist, and local poet **Megan Levad**, the U-M Zell Writers' Program assistant director, discuss Kasischke's new book, a collection of poems, informed both by illness and by the deaths of loved ones, that embrace the living, sensual world with mysteriously evocative lyrical imagery. 5:30-7 p.m., 100 U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764-3166.

★**Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On.** Every Sun.-Fri. (except Dec. 24, 25, & 31). All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using modern constructed (Mon.) Elder Dragon Highlander/Commander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), standard constructed (Thurs.), and booster draft (Fri. & Sun.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Sun.). 6 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.) & 1 p.m. (Sun.), Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. \$5 (Tues., free; Sun. & Fri., \$15 includes cards). 786-3746.

★**"Sci-Tech":** Ann Arbor District Library. Every Mon. & Fri. through Dec. 15. GameStart staff present hands-on introductions to various computer skills for kids in grades 3-8 (except as noted). Dec. 1: "Web Design." Learn how to build your own web page. For kids in grades 3-8. Dec. 5: "Starcraft Programming." Learn how to use Galaxy Map Editor to program this sophisticated video game. For kids in grades 3-10. Dec. 8: "Video Game Development." Learn the basics of the popular free game development platform Unity 3D, with a focus on different kinds of games each session. For kids in grades 3-10. Dec. 12: "Minecraft Modding." Learn how to build Minecraft mods using the Java programming language. For kids in grades 3-10. Dec. 15: "Minecraft Programming." Learn how to program Minecraft using the Python programming language. For kids in grades 3-8. 6-7:30 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Ann Arbor Downtown Group Run":** Running Fit. Every Mon. & Thurs. except Dec. 25. Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3-8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. 6:15 p.m. (Mon.) & 6:30 p.m. (Thurs.), Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 769-5016.

★**Voice Department Recital:** U-M School of Music. Program TBA. 6:45 p.m. U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Annual Member's Moment Night":** Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table. Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War-related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Exhibit Room near the Administration Bldg. Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from Huron River Dr.). Free. (517) 750-2741.

★**World AIDS Week at U-M.** Events include a talk on "Tribal Culture and AIDS in Africa" (Dec. 1, 7-9 p.m., 2435 North Quad, 105 S. State) and a screening of *After the Fall: HIV Grows Up* (Dec. 4, 7 p.m., 1020 SPH II, 1415 Washington Hts.), Frederick Taylor's 2012 documentary about young Romanians living with HIV and their efforts to integrate into society, marry, have families, and embark on successful careers. Followed by a discussion led by U-M Center for Sexuality & Health Disparities director Jose Bauernmeister. Other World AIDS Week events TBA at worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com. 7 p.m., different locations. Free. 763-7260.

★**"Nosh and Knowledge":** Temple Beth Emeth. Dec. 1 & 4 (choose one). TBE education director Terri Ginsburg leads a discussion of *A Guide for the*

theater



Annapurna

A mountain and a woman

Clattering around his bleak, dirty beige mobile home in Colorado, with a jagged mountain peak outside the window, Ulysses is trying to die quietly, until his ex-wife Emma appears. He cocks a suspicious eyebrow, looks her over, and spits out: "After twenty years, you show up with seventeen thousand dollars, bruises, and a fruit bowl," and they're off to the races, recalling their brief but electric married life. In the Purple Rose production, the dialog of *Annapurna* has a rhythm you can practically tap dance to.

It's gradually revealed that Ulysses is a poet of some note and Emma his editor who abandoned him for a safer, more conventional life. But *Annapurna* is not about the problems of intellectuals—it's an accessible, universal story of how painful it is to be young and on fire, with no money and a child. "So true to life. It can really be like that—the drinking, the screaming," whispered someone behind me to a friend, and her friend nodded. Like many people who come to Sunday matinees, they were seniors, and they sounded wistful.

The playwright, Sharr White, makes poetry out of everyday language. Richard McWilliams is simply fabulous as Ulysses: by turns gentle, rancorous, sharp, defeated, defiant. Michelle Mountain does her best—a brassy, warm, high-energy presence, she can do earth mother, vamp, or pretty much any woman over in the Marilyn Monroe corner—but her skill set doesn't go in this opposite direction. It takes a lot of intellectual

ballast to make Emma into Ulysses' equal, and Mountain doesn't have it. She's warm and solid, but as the play progresses, she begins to seem unfathomably dim when it comes to choosing husbands.

There's a treat here for James Joyce fans, I think, though with no reference to Joyce in the program, much less in the play itself, it's struggling a little too hard to escape from what seems like an ordinary piece of storytelling theater. Two odd words stick out in White's otherwise normal vocabulary: "Ulysses," not a popular baby name even these days, and "Annapurna," a mountain in India neither character seems to have visited. These are the only two potential clues that the play sits atop a pool of Joyce allusions, but as the play draws to a close, a little bit of a familiar literary landscape shows itself. It seems that *Annapurna* is to Ulysses (this play's Ulysses, I mean) what the River Liffey is to *Finnegan's Wake*—an unconquerable, shape-shifting life force and natural phenomenon that is also a woman. In *Finnegan's Wake* Joyce also called the Liffey "Anna Livia Plurabelle." Ulysses' *Annapurna* is likewise a woman, and she's named Emma.

If this seems far-fetched, ask yourself why the play isn't called Pike's Peak, and the male character Mike or Joe. *Finnegan's Wake* is too dense a forest to make sense of here, and that's if you buy the argument that it makes sense at all, but this is just to note that Joyce lovers should come prepared, and I'd love to hear what a real Joyce scholar could glean from it all.

—Sally Mitani

Perplexed, Dara Horn's 2013 adventure novel that intertwines stories from Genesis with medieval philosophy and the digital frontier. 7 p.m. (Dec. 1) & noon (Dec. 4), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. 665-4744.

★**"Around the World": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local world traveler Jeff Price tells the story of how he quit his job, sold all his possessions, and embarked on a journey that took him around the world, including a 5-mile pilgrimage on the legendary route across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela. Q&A. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Dec. 1, 8, & 15. Jigs, reels, and strathspeys, usually with live music. All dances taught; beginners welcome. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. \$5. 395-7782, 769-1052, 426-0241.

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors (\$35 annual dues for those who join). 274-9463.

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Mon. Local high school English teacher Barry Aherne

throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team (up to 6 people) or join one. Prizes. 8:30-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

2 TUESDAY

Preschool Story Time: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Every Tues. & Sat. All preschoolers, accompanied by an adult, invited for stories. Followed by a science activity. 9-10 a.m. (Tues.) & 10:30-11:30 a.m. (Sat.), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

★**"Tiny Tot Time: Rockin' Rocks & Fossils": Leslie Science & Nature Center.** All kids ages 1-3 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited to examine some rocks, skulls, bones, and fossils and then hop along dinosaur tracks and search for rocks along LSNCR trails. Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. 9:15-10:45 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver. \$8 per child. Space limited; preregistration recommended. 997-1553.

Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. Every Tues. (when Ann Arbor Public Schools are in session). All women invited to study the Bible with other American and international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories

and fun activities for preschoolers, and child care provided for babies. 9:45-11:15 a.m. & 1:15-2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. \$15 for the year. 665-0105.

★**Storytime: Nicola's Books.** Every Tues. & Sat. An experienced storyteller spins yarns for kids age 7 & under. The Tues. storytime includes a craft activity. Today only storytime is followed by a chance to meet Bad Kitty, the misbehaving feline in Nick Bruel's children's book series. 10 a.m. (Tues.) & 11 a.m. (Sat.), Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★**Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Tues. & Wed., except Dec. 24. Stories and songs for kids ages 2-5 (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered at the Traverwood (Tues. 11-11:30 a.m., Wed. 6-6:30 p.m., & Thurs. except Dec. 25 10-10:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (Wed. 10-10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs. except Dec. 25 7-7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10-10:30 a.m.) branches. 10-10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11-11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (branches).

Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Tues. All ages invited to play this popular word game. Lunch available for \$5.50 (age 60 & over, \$3) at 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; reservations required. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 (members, free). 794-6250.

★**Adults Tuesday: Jewish Community Center.** Every Tues. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar. Also, at 1 p.m., mah-jongg, quilting, and other games & activities. Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971-0990.

★**"Ritual Substitutions: Theories of Ritual from Classical China": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** Talk by Harvard University Chinese history professor Michael Puett. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6308.

★**"Eleven Years": U-M Institute for the Humanities.** NYC-based photographer Jen Davis discusses the current exhibit (see Galleries) of her self-portraits made over the course of 11 years. 12:30 p.m., 1022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer. Free. 936-3518.

★**String Showcase: U-M School of Music.** Second in a monthly program. Outstanding string students perform solo and ensemble chamber works. 4 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Chaperone Discovery": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts.** Lecture by molecular, cellular, & developmental biology professor James Bardwell. "Chaperone" proteins assist in creating or breaking down macromolecular structures in cells. Reception follows. 4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 998-6251.

★**Story Time: Bookbound.** Every Tues. & Thurs. except Dec. 23 & 25. Linda Zimmer reads stories for kids age 6 & under. 6 p.m. (Tues.) & 10:30 a.m. (Thurs.), Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369-4345.

★**Charles Baxter: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** Reading by this U-M writer-in-residence, a former faculty member in the U-M English MFA program. A renowned fiction writer and poet whose work has been widely anthologized, Baxter is best known for his 2000 novel, *Feast of Love*, a National Book Award finalist that was the inspiration for Robert Benton's 2007 film starring Morgan Freeman and Greg Kinnear. His most recent publication, *Gryphon*, is a collection of short stories characterized by "the numbing tedium of a Midwestern suburb," says Joyce Carol Oates in a *New York Times* review. "Baxter has been composing obituaries of a sort for his zombie Midwesterners, some of them poignant and disturbing, and all of them highly readable." Preceded at 5 p.m. by a reception and signing. 6 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764-6330, mslevad@umich.edu

★**"Ann Arbor East Group Run": Running Fit.** Every Tues. Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3-8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. 6:15 p.m., Running Fit, 3010 Washtenaw. Free. 548-6299.

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** Every Tues. All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. 6:30-8:30 p.m., location TBA at meetup.com/ann-arbor-stitchNBitch/. Free. 945-3035.

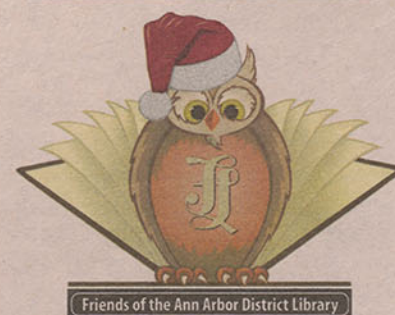
English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Dec. 2, 9, & 16. Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 7 p.m. Note: The Dec. 16 dance is a solstice party with post-

Annual Holiday Sale

A Trio of Options

- The Usual: good stuff, great prices, NEW location
- The Exceptional: gift quality choices, Multipurpose Room
- The Economical: warehouse bargains, old location

Saturday, Dec 6 -- 10 to 4
Sunday, Dec 7 -- 1 to 4



Downtown Library
343 S. Fifth Avenue
Friends Book Shop

(734) 302-7774
www.faadl.org



Midnight Madness

Fri. Dec. 5th
Downtown Ann Arbor

- ★ Stores open late
- ★ Sales
- ★ Entertainment

mainstreetannarbor.org



A Holiday Exhibit Letters & Leaves

Nature As Inspiration for Poetry

Nov. 29-Jan. 4, at Nichols Arboretum
& Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Featuring

Open House &
Spinners Flock
fiber arts sale
Nov. 29

Poetry displays

Poetry writing activities

Nature photography
exhibit

Seasonal flower display

Holiday decorated trees

Faerie house display

Plus

Wonders of Winter

Sat., Dec. 6, 10 am-noon
Kids program featuring
stories, crafts, and wreath
making. \$10/child

Poetry Reading

Wed., Dec. 10, 6 pm
Readings by U-M faculty
Lorna Goodison and
Keith Taylor. **Free**

A Visit with Father Christmas
Sat., Dec. 20, noon-2 pm.
Free



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1800 N. Dixboro Rd. (Matthaei) | mbgna.umich.edu
1610 Washington Hts. (Arb) | 734.647.7600

31st Annual Ann Arbor City Club Arts and Crafts Festival

Saturday, December 6, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ceramics
Photography
Jewelry
Dolls

Nature Crafts
Wood Working
Watercolors
Children's Furniture

Helen Springer Baskets
Textiles/Fabric Art
Written Works
Much More!

Juried show featuring more than 45 vendors!

Great for holiday shopping!

Lunch available 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

\$3 Admission • Free parking



1830 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-662-3279 • www.annarborcityclub.org

Holiday Greens

Wreaths • Roping • Poinsettias
Cyclamen • Norfolk Pines
Ribbon Bows

dance singing (bring a treat to share, if you wish).
7-9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse,
3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). \$8 (students, \$4;
kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665-7704.

★“Navigating Winter with Raw Foods”: People’s
Food Co-op. Talk by local raw foods advocate Ellen
Livingston. 7-8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore
& Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration
required at the co-op or at peoplesfood.coop/news-
and_events/. 994-4589.

★“Grief 101: What to Expect When Grieving”:
Ann Arbor District Library/Arbor Hospice Grief
Support Services. Talk by an Arbor Hospice repre-
sentative. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359
Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann
Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4555.

★“Gender Studies in Southeast Asia”: U-M Center
for Southeast Asian Studies. Lecture by U-M
women’s studies professor Victor Mendoza. 7 p.m.,
3448 Mason Hall, 419 S. State. Free. 764-0352.

★Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Cho-
rus. Every Tues., Sept. 9-Apr. 28. All invited to join
this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to
sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious
music, in various genres. David Peramle directs.
7-9 p.m., Gladwin Center barn, 4105 W. Liberty.
Free to visitors (\$125 per semester dues for those
who join). 355-7738.

★Yellow Room Gang: Ann Arbor District Li-
brary. In-the-round performances by this group of
8 award-winning veteran Michigan songwriters who
get together regularly to share their new work. Mem-
bers are David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps,
Kitty Donohoe, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba, and
Michael Hough & David Tamulevich of the local
duo Mustard’s Retreat. 7-8 p.m., AADL multipurpose
room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines. Every Tues.
All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of
this local 70-member a cappella barbershop har-
mony chorus. 7-9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall,
8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94),
Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$26 monthly dues for those
who join). 612-7580.

★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Bar-
bershop Harmony Society. Every Tues. All male
singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this
local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., Stony
Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek
Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for
those who join). Newcomers should call in advance:
Greg Humbel, 445-1925.

★Jazz Band Concert: Huron High School. Stu-
dents perform works TBA. 7:30 p.m., Huron High
Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994-2040.

U-M Men’s Basketball vs. Syracuse. The U-M
also has games this month against New Jersey Tech
(Dec. 6, noon), EMU (Dec. 9, 9 p.m.), SMU (Dec.
20, noon), Coppin State (Dec. 22, 8 p.m.), and Il-
linois (Dec. 30, 3 p.m.). 7:30 p.m., Crisler Center.
Ticket prices TBA at mgoblue.com/tickets. 764-0247.

★Spanish Readers Group: Nicola’s Books.
All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of
Crímenes Imperceptibles, Guillermo Martínez’s
novel about a logic professor who sets out to solve a
series of mathematically-based murders. 7:30 p.m.,
Nicola’s, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center.
Free. 662-0600.

★Ann Arbor Camera Club. Club members show
their recent digital images and prints, including those
on the club’s current topic, “Fire.” 7:30 p.m., For-
sythe Middle School Media Center, 1655 Newport.
Free. 327-4781.

★“Rudolf Steiner as an Expressionist Architect”:
Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical
Society in America. Talk by U-M Germanic lan-
guages and literatures professor Fred Amrine. 7:30
p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free.
276-5294.

★Orchestra Concert: Greenhills School. Upper
School students perform works TBA. 7:30 p.m.,
Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Perform-
ing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4082.

★“This Wonderful Life”: Performance Network.
Every Tues.-Thurs. (except Nov. 27), Nov. 25-Dec.
18. Tony Caselli directs Williamston Theatre execu-
tive director John Lepard in Steve Murray’s tour-de-
force, a one-man re-creation of the beloved 1946
Frank Capra Christmas movie. 7:30 p.m., Perfor-
mance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$13.50-\$27
in advance by phone and at pntheatre.org, and at the
door. 663-0681.

★Wind Chamber Music Recital: U-M School of
Music. Brass and woodwind students perform small-
ensemble works TBA. 8 p.m., Music School Britton
Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Cam-
pus. Free. 615-3204.

★German Speakers Round Table. Every Tues. All
German speakers invited for conversation. 8-10 p.m.,

Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington.
Free admission. 453-2394.

3 WEDNESDAY

★“Rockin’ for the Hungry”: Food Gatherers. Dec.
3-7. Live broadcasts by radio station 107one DJs.
Nonperishable food donations requested. 7 a.m.-7
p.m. (Dec. 3-6) & 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 7), Kroger,
400 S. Maple. Free admission. 761-2796.

★“(At Least) Ten Things You Don’t Know about
the History of the University of Michigan”: Ann
Arbor City Club Lunch & Learn. Lecture by U-M
Bentley Historical Library director Terrence McDon-
ald. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., City Club, 1830 Washtenaw.
\$30 (members, \$25); includes lunch. Reservations
required by Nov. 28. 662-3279, ext. 1.

★Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops. Every Wed.,
Fri., & Sat. All invited to play one of 100 songs,
with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-
bell chime’s numbered keys. Ambitious players can
add chords. Local chimemaster Heather O’Neal
demonstrates. Noon-12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) &
10:30-11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown Market & Shops.
Free. 369-3107.

★“Pluralism from Below: Negotiating Religious
Diversity in Catholic Poland”: U-M Center for
Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies. Talk
by Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Slavic
Studies anthropology professor Agnieszka Pasieka.
Bring a bag lunch, if you like. Noon-1:30 p.m., 1636
SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.

★“Notions of Sacrifice among the Romans”: U-M
Classics Department Brown Bag Series. Lecture
by U-M classics professor Celia Schultz. Bring a
bag lunch. Noon-1 p.m., 2175 Angell Hall. Free.
764-0360.

★“Folksong King: Connecting People and Places
in Contemporary China”: U-M Confucius Insti-
tute. Dartmouth College Chinese language, folklore,
and modern literature professor Levi Gibbs discusses
some of the roles folksongs have played in contem-
porary China, focusing on the career of Wang Xian-
grong, known as the “Folksong King of Western Chi-
na.” Noon-1 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Room.
Free. 764-8888.

★Chess: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.
Every Wed. All seniors invited to play chess. Refresh-
ments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center,
2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★Jesmy Ward: U-M Institute for the Human-
ities Jill S. Harris Memorial Lecture. Lecture by
this U-M creative writing grad, author of *Salvage the
Bones*, a 2011 National Book Award-winning novel
about a motherless family, barely scraping by in rural
poverty as they prepare for a coming hurricane, and
the 2013 memoir, *Men We Reaped*, a finalist for the
National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiog-
raphy. Her talk addresses her writing process and how
her experiences growing up poor and black in the
South continue to influence her work. 5 p.m., Rack-
ham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 936-3518.

★Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabble Club. Dec. 3, 10,
17, 23, & 30. Word freaks of all abilities invited to
drop in to play this popular word game, using the
brand-new 5th edition Scrabble dictionary. Bring
your own set, if you like. 5-8 p.m., Arbor Brewing
Co., 114 E. Washington. Free. 994-0084, 277-7748.

Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Wed. ex-
cept Dec. 24. All invited to play bingo. Cash prizes.
6-10 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin.
\$2 admission. \$9 per game. 769-5911.

★“UMjobs.org”: Ann Arbor District Library.
A U-M Human Resources Office business systems
analyst discusses how to search and apply for U-M
jobs. 6-8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090
E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard.
Free. 327-8301.

★“Ann Arbor West Group Run”: Running Fit.
Every Wed. Runners of all abilities invited to join a
weekly run, 3-8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks
provided. Rain or shine. 6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 5700
Jackson. Free. 929-9022.

★“Ari’s Best of 2014”: Zingerman’s Delicatessen.
Dec. 3 & 16. Zingerman’s cofounder Ari Weinzweig
discusses and offers taste samples of some of his
favorite Zingerman’s products. An extremely popu-
lar annual event, which usually sells out. 6:30-8:30
p.m., Zingerman’s Events on 4th, Fourth Ave. just
south of Kingsley. \$45 in advance and (if available)
at the door. 663-3400.

★“Block Printing”: Ann Arbor District Library.
Adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to learn to
make linocut prints using linoleum blocks. Supplies
provided. 6:30-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch,
2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and
Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wed. except Dec.
24 & 31. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned du-
plicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner,

call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline west of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) \$6 per person. 769-3994.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Wake Forest. The U-M also has games this month against Princeton (Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.), Canisius (Dec. 19, 7 p.m.), and EMU (Dec. 22, noon). 7 p.m., Crisler Center. \$3 & \$8. 764-0247.

"Smell and Tell: The Aromatic Allure of Patchouli": Ann Arbor District Library. Local flavor and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd, creator of the award-winning smell and taste blog Glass Petal Smoke, introduces adults and teens in grade 6 & up to some varieties and vintages of this herb used in perfumes and incenses and offers samples of some patchouli-inspired perfumes. 7-8:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Reading by Kathy Edgren, an award-winning local poet (and former 3-term city councilwoman) who has published 2 chapbooks, *Transports* and the recent *Long Division*. Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mike. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

Kevin Meisel and Dan Hazlett: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Meisel is a local folk-rock singer-songwriter who specializes in narrative ballads, and Hazlett is a Detroit-area singer-songwriter and guitarist who plays blues-, R&B-, folk-, and jazz-influenced originals on topics that range from the outlandish to the sublime. They also talk about how they wrote their songs. 7-9 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 12 Jackson, Chelsea. \$15 suggested donation. Info: call Annie Capps at 330-5226.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. Every Wed.-Sun. (except Nov. 27) through Dec. 20. See review, p. 81. Guy Sanville directs local actors in Sharr White's bittersweet comedy about a long-estranged couple who reunite after 20 years when the wife shows up unexpectedly at the husband's grungy trailer in the Colorado mountains and tries to clean things up before their son's arrival. "At the heart of each character is a lyricism that simply can't be suffocated," says a *Huffington Post* review. "White has created two fine and ferociously damaged people caught in the emotional whirlpool of not being able to live with or without each other." 2 p.m. (Wed. & Sun.), 7 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Nov. 28), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$27 (Wed. matinee), \$15 (Wed. & Thurs. eves.), \$37 (Fri. & weekend matinees), \$42 (Sat. eve.) in advance at purplerosetheatre.org, and by phone. 433-7673.

***Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. 7:30-10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426-5100.

***"Introduction to Steiner's Thought":** Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Every Wed. except Dec. 24 & 31. All invited to join a discussion of Rudolf Steiner's *How to Know Higher Worlds*. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 485-3764.

***Choir Winter Concert: Huron High School.** Students perform works TBA. 7:30 p.m., Huron High Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994-2040

***History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss *Invisible Forms: A Guide to Curiosities*, Kevin Jackson's book about footnotes, prefaces, dedications, indexes, etc. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

"This Wonderful Life": Performance Network. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

***Trombone Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Trombone students perform solo works by Barat, Casterede, Lassen, Rachmaninoff, Ticheli, and others. 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

***"Mad About Chamber Music":** Kerrytown Concert House. U-M music professor Christopher Harding directs U-M music students in an informal concert of classical music. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free; donations accepted. Reservations recommended. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769-2999.

***Campus Jazz Ensembles: U-M School of Music.** Andrew Peck directs students in jazz standards. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Every Wed. through Dec. 17. Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Wed. except Dec. 24. Conor O'Neill's staff

member Ryan Halsey hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. 9-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$3 team fee. 665-2968.

Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor. Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson. The Dec. 17 dance is a "Winter Wonderland Dance." 9-11 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room (except Dec. 17, Michigan Union Pendleton Room). \$5 (students, \$4; \$1 discount for members; free for those who attend the free lesson at 8 p.m.). 945-8428.

4 THURSDAY

***Older Adults Thursday: Jewish Community Center.** Every Thurs. except Dec. 25. Activities, primarily for seniors, begin at 10 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. (1 p.m. on Dec. 18) Current Events discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. (11 a.m. on Dec. 18) by a cultural or educational program. Dec. 4: Cantor Regina Hayut discusses "Hanukkah." Dec. 11: Humane Society of Huron Valley brings a furry companion to play with and discusses the work of their organization. Dec. 18: Hanukkah party with JCC preschoolers. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971-0990.

***"Hokusai's Manga and France's Descriptive Turn: Reading the Japanese Book in 1860s Paris":** U-M Center for Japanese Studies. Lecture by CJS visiting scholar Emily Brink. Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6307.

***Gifts of Art Concert Series: U-M Hospitals.** Dec. 4, 11, 18, & 21. Performances by area musicians. Dec. 4: "Holiday Harmonies" by the local band Counterpoint. Dec. 11: Suzuki Violin Holiday Concert by students ages 4-16 from the Ann Arbor Suzuki Institute. Dec. 18: Klezmer music by the local band Klezmephonic. Dec. 21: Strolling Victorian caroling by Arbor Consort costumed singers. 12:10-1 p.m. (except Dec. 21, 1:30-4 p.m.), U-M Hospital Main Lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

***Lecture Series: U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.** Dec. 4 & 11. Lectures by Frankel Institute fellows. Dec. 4: Devi Mays on "Reorienting Imperial Jews: Constantinople at the Crossroads of Modern Jewish Identities." Dec. 11: Jindrich Toman on "Bohemian Jews as Bohemian Jews: Literary Strategies Between the Imperial and the Local." 12:15 p.m., Thayer Bldg. room 2022, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763-9047.

***"Christmas Arias":** First Baptist Church Coffee Break Concert Series. Local soprano Natasha Drake performs arias from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and *Christmas Cantata*, Saint-Saëns *Oratorio de Noël*, Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, and Rheinberger's *Der Stern von Bethlehem*. She is accompanied by the church's music director Shin-Ae Chun on organ and piano. Refreshments. 12:15 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. 663-9376.

***"Holding Place":** U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series. Talk by Seth Ellis, a multimedia installation artist whose work attempts to tell stories that revolve around material culture, place, and everyday objects. 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 764-9537.

***"Hula Show":** U-M American Culture Department. Performance by U-M Asian/Pacific Islander American studies students. 5:45 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium D. Free. 647-9535.

***Comhaltas.** Every Thurs. except Dec. 25. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. 7:30-9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. 255-5310.

***Annual Show-and-Tell & Holiday Party: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Club members show and discuss their mineral specimens. Silent auction of mineral and lapidary items. Holiday refreshments. 7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665-5574.

***Ann Arbor Go Club.** Every Sun. & Thurs. Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. 7-11 p.m. (Thurs.) & 5-9 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. umich.edu/~goclub

Euchre Night: Out Loud Chorus Fundraiser. All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. 7 p.m., location TBA. \$10. 973-6084, 663-0036.

umma exhibitions

GUIDO VAN DER WERVE: NUMMER VEERTIEN, HOME



December 13, 2014-April 26, 2015
Media Gallery

Above: Guido van der Werve, *Nummer veertien, home* (Still), 2012, 4K video, from an edition of 8 and 2 artist's proofs, 54 minutes, courtesy of the artist and Luhring Augustine, New York
Lead support for this exhibition is provided by the Herbert W. and Susan L. Johe Endowment.

525 South State Street
Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 11AM-5PM,
Sunday 12-5PM • Free admission
www.umma.umich.edu

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MUSEUM OF ART

ASO

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

SING-ALONG WITH SANTA

December 6
4:00 pm
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

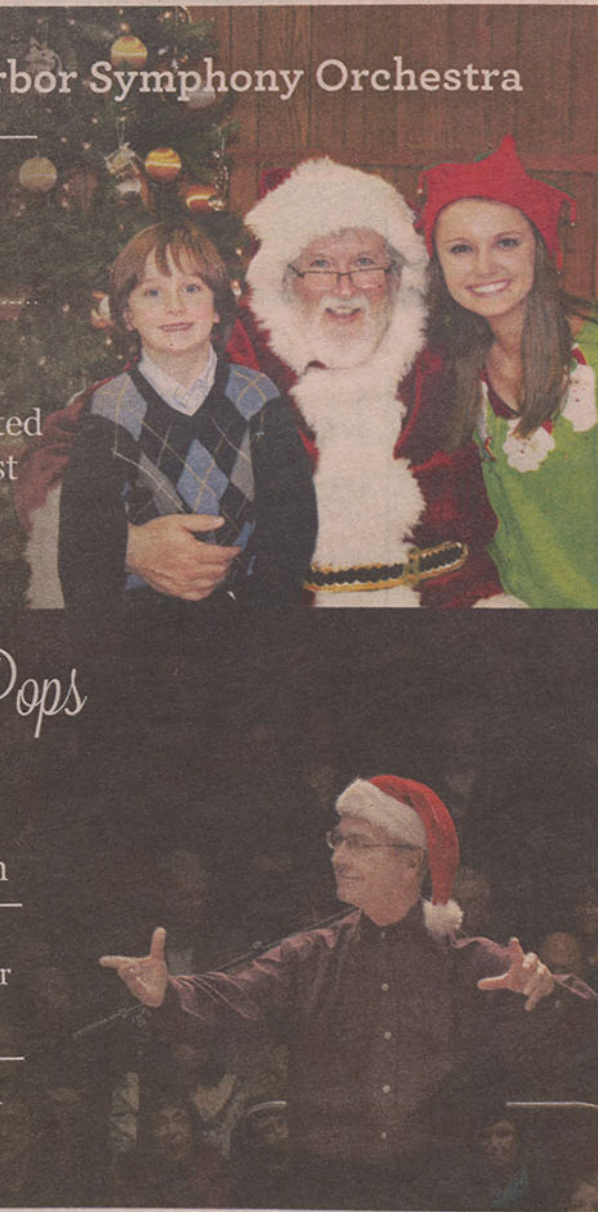
Holiday Pops

December 12
8:00 pm
Hill Auditorium

Co-sponsored by
Bank of Ann Arbor

helps

(734) 994-4801
www.a2so.com



THE PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY

734.433.7673 PurpleRoseTheatre.org



Events at the Institute for the Humanities University of Michigan December 2014

All events are held
at the Institute for
the Humanities, 202
S. Thayer, unless
otherwise noted.

All events are free
and open to the
public

734.936.3518

humint@umich.edu



Photo: Jen Davis,
Aldo and I in bed,
2013, Archival
Pigment Print,
20x24 inches

The Hub

Innovative exhibitions and arts programming.

Nov 17 - Dec 19 — *The Diary of a Teenage Girl*: Pop-Up
Exhibition by Phoebe Gloeckner, M-F 9am-5pm

Nov 24 - Jan 9 — *Eleven Years*: An exhibition by Jen
Davis, M-F 9am-5pm

Dec 2 — Artist Talk by Jen Davis, 12:30pm

Dec 4 — Opening Reception for *Eleven Years*, 5pm

Dec 5 — Body and Image: A Discussion with Jen Davis,
3pm, 2435 North Quad

Dec 9 — Curator's Conversation with Jen Davis,
12:30pm

Major Lectures

Dec 3 — Jill S. Harris Memorial Lecture: **Jesmyn Ward**,
"Men We Reap," followed by reception & book signing,
Rackham Amphitheater, 915 E. Washington, 5pm
Please arrive early as seating is limited!

Author's Forum

A series on books & ideas presented in collaboration
with the University Library, Ann Arbor Book Festival,
and Great Lakes Literary Arts Center.

*Author's Forums are held in the Hatcher Graduate
Library, Gallery #100, 5:30pm*

Dec 1 — *The Infinitesimals*: A Conversation with
Laura Kasischke and Megan Levad



www.lsa.umich.edu/humanities

★All Choir Concert: Greenhills School. Performances by Middle and Upper School students. 7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4004.

★"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. Every Thurs.-Sat. (except Nov. 27), Nov. 20-Dec. 21. Encore cofounder Dan Cooney directs this local professional company in the world premiere of his and Dayle Ann Hunt's holiday musical about an old-fashioned TV Christmas special. The score includes "White Christmas," "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Carol of the Bells," "O Holy Night," and many other seasonal favorites. Stars William Stutts Jr., Pete Podolski, Jess Alexander, and Mahalia Greenway, with Michael Szymanski, Timothy Brayman, Erika Jost, Teola Jones, Bryana Hall, Colleen Kartheiser, Callen Snyder, and Sebastian Gerstner. 7 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun. & Dec. 11). Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets \$26 (seniors, \$24; youth & groups of 10 or more, \$22) on Thurs.; \$32 (seniors, \$30; youth & groups of 10 or more, \$28) on Fri. & Sat. eve. \$28 (seniors, \$26; youth & groups of 10 or more, \$24) for all matinees in advance at theencoretheatre.org and at the door. \$15 student rush tickets (if available) an hour before showtime. 268-6200.

★"Tintypes": EMU Theatre Department. Nov. 21-23 and Dec. 4-7. EMU drama professor Wallace Bridges directs EMU drama students in Kyte, Marvin, and Pearle's charming, nostalgic 1980 Broadway show, a lively musical revue of 50 songs from approximately 1880-1920 that follows the experiences of a young Russian immigrant as he becomes a part of the melting pot of American culture. Interwoven are glimpses into the lives of a variety of characters, from Teddy Roosevelt and the radical Emma Goldman to a housemaid and an aristocratic songbird. Recommended for audiences age 10 & older. 7 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), EMU Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell at Jarvis), Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$12; kids 12 & under, \$7) in advance and at the door. 487-1221.

★"Tryst": U-M Basement Arts. Dec. 4-6. Sam Rehr directs students in Karoline Leach's 2006 drama set in Edwardian London about the unlikely relationship between a con artist and a spinster. 7 p.m. (Dec. 4-6) & 11 p.m. (Dec. 5), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio One, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. basementarts.info

★"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. Every Thurs. except Dec. 25. Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear soft-soled shoes. 7:30-10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 (students, free). 971-0990.

★"Fuente Ovejuna": U-M Theatre Department. Dec. 4-7. U-M theater professor Robert Chapel directs English poet and playwright Adrian Mitchell's vivid 1989 translation of Lope de Vega's 1619 drama, a tumultuous communal spectacle about a Spanish town that harnesses the courage both to kill the oppressive commander of a papal militia and stand down the brutal measures King Ferdinand undertakes in an effort to identify the perpetrators. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets \$22 & \$28 (students, \$10) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

★"A Fairytale Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players. Dec. 4-7. Kara Cardella directs local actors in Cindy Marcus and Flip Kobler's twist on the Dickens classic. In this version, Scrooge is the Big Bad Wolf, 2 of the Cratchit children are Hansel and Gretel, the Ghost of Christmas Future is the Queen of Hearts, and Mother Goose narrates. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 4 & 5), 1 p.m. (Dec. 6), & 3:30 p.m. (Dec. 6 & 7), Stone Arch Arts & Events, 117 S. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Tickets \$5. Salineareplayers.org

★"This Wonderful Life": Performance Network. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

★Fall Concert: U-M Headnotes. This a cappella ensemble of law students performs Sam Smith's "Stay With Me," Bastille's "Pompeii," Ella Fitzgerald's "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)," a Disney medley, and other works. 8 p.m., U-M Law Quad Lawyer's Club Lounge. Free. umheadnotesboard@umich.edu

★Jazz Lab Ensemble & Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Dennis Wilson directs the Jazz Lab Ensemble and Ellen Rowe directs the Jazz Ensemble. The program includes works by Strum, Simon, Jones, Nestico, Wilson, and Abene. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

★C.P.E. Bach Birthday Tribute: Kerrytown Concert House. Strings players and flutists TBA

perform an all-C.P.E. Bach program. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Reservations recommended. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769-2999.

★"You Can't Take It With You": PTD Productions. Dec. 4-7 & 10-13. Dennis Platte directs local actors in Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1937 comedy about the classic American conflict between respectability and self-reliance. Hilarity ensues when a young woman brings home her fiancé—the son of a Wall Street tycoon—to introduce him to her family, a collection of good-hearted eccentrics. Cast: Richard Heberlein, Marie Jones, Elisha Kranz, Amy Griffith, Jim Sullivan, Joe Conat, Ben Myers, Dock Riley Jr., Leah Fox, Pamela "Tia" Thomas, Nathan Corliss, Eli Tell, Lisa Gavan, Joe York, Lois Kuznets Dowling, Jan Carpmann, Norman Fell, and Paul Demyonovich. 8 p.m. (Dec. 4-6 & 11-13), 2 p.m. (Dec. 7), & 3 p.m. (Dec. 10), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$18 (students & seniors, \$12; Thurs., pay what you can) in advance at showtix4u.com or by phone. Ptdproductions.com, 483-7345.

★"Beloved Opera Scenes": U-M School of Music. Dec. 4 & 5. Kay Castaldo directs U-M opera undergrads in dramatic, romantic, and hilarious scenes from operas by Mozart, Rossini, Puccini and Poulenc. Piano accompanist is Kathryn Goodson. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music U-M Stearns Bldg. Cady Room, 2005 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-2538.

★"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Dec. 4-7. Caitlin Cashin and Richard Alder direct this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert & Sullivan's wonderfully funny send-up of the conventions of 19th-century melodrama. Set in a fishing village on the coast of England, the story concerns a lonely aristocrat who suffers under his family's ancient curse: he must commit at least one atrocity a day or face a death of unspeakable agony. The problem is he's really a nice guy, with no stomach for dastardly deeds. The plot takes several delicious twists, including sudden switches of identity and romantic affections, ancestral portraits coming to life, and a preposterous legal resolution (a favorite device with Gilbert, himself a failed lawyer). The score is one of Sullivan's best, but the work is seldom performed, mainly because of the difficult special effects it calls for. 8 p.m. (Dec. 4-6) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 6 & 7), Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 North University. Tickets \$20 (seniors, \$18; students, \$10; student rush tickets at the door, \$5) in advance at brownpapertickets.com/event/863697 & by phone, and at the door. Tickets: (800) 838-3006. Info: 647-8436.

★"RiffTrax Live! Santa Claus": Quality 16. Live broadcast of a "riffing" performance by former Mystery Science Theater 3000 stars Michael J. Nelson, Kevin Murphy, and Bill Corbett, who aim their comic heckling at a screening of Jeannot Szwarc's adventure fantasy that begins with Santa's origin story and ends with his struggle against a renegade elf and evil toy manufacturer who have teamed up in an effort to elbow Santa aside and corner the market for the Christmas spirit. 8 p.m. Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets \$12 in advance at gqti.com and at the door. 623-7469.

Sean Kent: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 4-6. This Texas stand-up comic, a 2-time contestant on the NBC show *Last Comic Standing*, is known for his incisive, edgy sociopolitical comedy. His CD *Waiting for the Rapture* is in heavy rotation on satellite radio. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$12 (Thurs.) & \$15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

5 FRIDAY

★27th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. Dec. 5-7. Family activities, including Santa visits and crafts. Gingerbread house displays in shop windows and luminaria along Main St. in the evening. Merchant sales with entertainment and refreshments at many stores. The celebration also includes shows by the Chelsea Area Players Youth Theater and Ballet Chelsea (see Performances listings). Dec. 5: **Tree lighting ceremony** and **Santa's arrival** (6-6:30 p.m., Pierce Park), **Santa's workshop** with storytelling and children's crafts (6:30-8:30 p.m., Chelsea Depot), **cookie decorating** (6:30-8:30 p.m., Chelsea ATA Martial Arts), **storytelling** (6:30-8:30 p.m., Chelsea Farmer's Supply), **Common Chords** handbell choir holiday concert (7-8:30 p.m., Chelsea District Library McKune Room), a **living Nativity** with live animals and a Christmas choir (7:30 & 8 p.m., First Methodist Church), and more. Dec. 6: **Free breakfast with Santa** (8:30-10:30 a.m., Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center), **Children's Christmas Bazaar** for kids age 4 through 6th grade (10 a.m.-4

p.m., Chelsea First United Methodist Church; pre-registration required at chelseafestivals.com), **Gingerbread House decorating** for families (11 a.m.–noon & noon–1 p.m., First Congregational Church; space limited; pre-registration required by calling 475-1145), **Holiday Homemade Gift workshop** for teens & tweens (1:30–3 p.m., Chelsea District Library), docent-led **Historic Homes Tour** (2–5 p.m., starts at First Congregational Church; \$15), **holiday parade** (6 p.m., Main St.), **after-parade party & community sing** led by the all-female vocal ensemble Counterpoint (7–9 p.m., Chelsea Teddy Bear Company), the **"Great Bear Cub Run"** for kids (7 p.m., Chelsea Teddy Bear Company), and more. **Dec. 7: Hometown Holiday Concert** (3 & 7 p.m., First Methodist Church) by the Chelsea Chamber Players, the First Methodist Mosaic Choir and church organist Kyle Webber, and 18–20 Chelsea High School string and vocal students. Also, the **Holiday Festival of Lessons and Carols** (6:30 p.m., Chelsea Retirement Community Chapel) and more. **9 a.m.–10 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 6) & noon–7 p.m. (Dec. 7), downtown Chelsea.** Free. 475-1145.

★**"China's Aid to North Vietnam During the Vietnam War": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** Lecture by Brooklyn College political science professor Kosal Path. **Noon, 1636 SSWB International Institute, 1080 South University.** Free. 764-0352.

★**"Contemporary Slavery: Legislating, Litigating, and Organizing to Combat Slavery and Human Trafficking": U-M Program in International & Comparative Studies.** Panel discussion with Brazilian Chamber of Deputies staff attorney Leonardo Barbosa, Committee Against Modern Slavery (Paris) litigation director Bénédicte Bourgeois, Argentina state prosecutor for human trafficking Marcelo Colombla, and Brazilian federal judge Carlos Henrique Haddad. Moderated by U-M law professor Rebecca Scott and U-M Law School Human Trafficking Clinic clinical professor Bridgette Carr. **Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University.** Free. 764-2268.

★**"This Is America: Jimi Hendrix's Reimaginings of 'The Star-Spangled Banner' as Social Commentary at Woodstock and Beyond": U-M Hatcher Grad Library.** Lecture by U-M musicology professor Mark Clague, curator of the current exhibit *Banner Moments: The National Anthem in American Life*. **4–5:30 p.m., 100 Hatcher Library Gallery, enter from the Diag.** Free. 764-3166.

★**"Life Sciences & the Arts Lecture Series": U-M School of Art & Design.** Washington University art professor Patricia Olynyk discusses **"Art and Science: the Blurred Boundary."** Last in a series of lectures by U-M and visiting scholars, artists, and scientists whose work crosses disciplinary boundaries. **4 p.m., U-M Art & Architecture Bldg., 2000 Bonisteel.** Free. project-liaison.org

★**"The Syntax of Witness: A Reading and Discussion": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Reading by Tarfia Faizullah, a Pushcart Prize-winning poet who is also a U-M creative writing professor. **4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB International Institute, 1080 South University.** Free. 615-4059.

★**"Moonlight Madness Craft Show": Saline Community Education.** Juried show and sale of works by more than 150 crafters. Also, concessions, bake sale, a holiday tea (cost TBA, reservations required), a cookie walk, kids games and crafts, a gingerbread house display & contest, and more. **5–11 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline.** \$3 admission (kids age 5 & under, free). 429-5922, salineshow.com

★**"Winter Beer Tasting": Zingerman's Creamery.** Arbor Brewing Company introduces its Wenceslas Winter Fuel, a dark, full-bodied beer inspired by English old ale. Also, samples of some of ABC's other hand-crafted beers paired with Creamery cheeses. **6–8 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr.** \$50. 929-0500.

★**"Kids Night In": U-M Natural History Museum.** Parents invited to drop off their kids ages 5–12 for an evening of structured winter science and craft activities from making snowflakes to learning about animal adaptations to the cold. Pizza provided. **6–7 p.m. Kids can bring PJs & a pillow, if they wish. 6–10 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University.** \$35 (members, \$30). Sibling discounts available. Pre-registration required. 615-7116.

★**Jazz & Holiday Music: Briarwood.** Dec. 5, 6, 12, 18–21, 26, & 27. Live music programs, including **"Jazz to the Max"** (Dec. 5), **"Holiday Music"** (Dec. 6 and 18–21), **"American Songbook"** (Dec. 27), and other music TBA. **6–8 p.m. (Fri.), 3–5 p.m. (Sat.), 1:30–2:30 p.m. (Dec. 18), & 1–3 p.m. (Dec. 21), Briarwood center court stage.** Free. 769-9610.

★**7th Annual KindleFest: A Christkindlmarket": Kerrytown District Association.** A holiday sale featuring local artisans and farmers, live music, a **lantern parade** (6:30 p.m., \$10 per lantern or bring your own, lantern purchases available beginning at 4 p.m.), and fire pits to roast s'mores and chestnuts. New this year, a heated tent. German food, sweets,

and beverages. Tonight is also **"Midnight Madness"** (6 p.m.–midnight) in the Kerrytown Market & Shops, with special holiday sales, live music by the Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Quartet and strolling carolers, and more. **6–10 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown.** Free admission. 662-5008.

★**"Fried Walleye & Cherry Pie": Zingerman's Cornman Farms Book Club Dinner.** Chicago writer Peggy Wolff introduces her acclaimed collection of essays about Midwestern foodways and chats with one of the book's contributors, the nationally acclaimed Kalamazoo fiction writer Bonnie Jo Campbell, while hosting a delicious meal prepared by Zingerman's staff and featuring a menu of quintessentially Midwestern cuisine. **6:30–10 p.m., Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter.** \$75. Reservations required. 619-8100.

★**First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited for dinner, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah, and discussion on a theme TBA. Children welcome. **6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard).** \$10 (family, \$25). Reservations required at jewishculturalsociety.org. 975-9872.

★**U-M Ice Hockey vs. Ohio State.** 7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. Ticket price TBA at stubbhub.com/michigan-wolverines-hockey-tickets. 764-0247.

★**Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing).** All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. **7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill.** \$5 requested donation. 663-2037.

★**"Polar Express Pajama Party": Barnes & Noble.** Barnes & Noble staff (in costume) present an interactive reading of Chris Van Allsburg's Caldecott Medal-winning tale of a magical train ride on Christmas Eve. The reading includes the ringing of silver bells and other activities. For kids age 3 & up, who are invited to come in bedtime attire (complete with pillows and stuffed animals). Cookies & chocolate milk. **7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw.** Free. Reservations required. 973-0846.

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing grad students, including fiction writer Ian Bassingthwaite and poet J.D. Duval. **7 p.m., U-MMA Auditorium, 525 S. State.** Free. 615-3710.

★**"Midnight Madness": Downtown Home & Garden.** All invited for chestnuts roasted on an open fire, a petting zoo with livestock from the local Animal Oasis, and performances at 8 & 9 p.m. by **Our Own Thing Chorale**, the popular local chorus directed by U-M music professor emeritus Willis Patterson. **7 p.m.–midnight, Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley.** Free. 662-8122.

★**"Midnight Madness": Main Street Area Association.** Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Appearance by Santa. Sidewalk entertainment TBA. Also, Santa's Mailbox is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSA) through Dec. 19 in front of Conor O'Neill's (318 S. Main; include a return address to receive a response from Santa). **7–9 p.m. (some stores open later), Main Street shopping areas.** Free admission. 668-7112.

★**"Tintypes": EMU Theatre Department.** See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Tryst": U-M Basement Arts.** See 4 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

★**"Oldies Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** All invited to skate to vintage rock 'n' roll. Prizes for best costume. **7:15–8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard.** \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 794-6235.

★**A Cappella Concert: U-M Compulsive Lyres.** Performance by this coed a cappella ensemble. **7:30 p.m., 1324 East Hall, 530 Church St.** \$8 (students, \$5). lyres-exec@umich.edu

★**Percussion Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Percussion students of Joseph Gramley and Jonathan Ovalle perform solo and duo works. Also, a performance by the iMPact! youth percussion ensemble. **7:30 p.m., U-M Music School Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus.** Free. 615-3204.

★**"An Organist's Christmas": First United Methodist Church.** U-M organ professor James Kibbie and Kola Owolabi and EMU organ professor Michael Burkhardt present a festive program of holiday music on the church's Reuter pipe organ. Reception follows. **7:30 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State.** Donation. 662-4536.

★**37th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University.** Dec. 5–7. Elegantly elaborate medieval English pageant celebrating Christ's birth with a blend of religious pageantry and secular pomp. Gerald Dzuibinski and Brian Altevogt direct a large cast of Concordia students, faculty, and staff as Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi.

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New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. A Celebration of Local Architecture and Design (through Dec. 7). Art Off the Wall: 1st Annual Holiday Exhibition (Dec. 12-Jan. 4). Reception with live jazz, Dec. 12, 6-9 p.m. Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. 994-8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown Branch (343 S. Fifth Ave.): Planes and Trains and Things That Go! (Dec. 2-Jan. 14). Annual children's book exhibit, with books from the U-M Special Collections Library. In the lower level display cases. Seemingly Unrelated: Paintings by the Saline Painters Guild (Dec. 2-Jan. 14). In the multipurpose room. New Art Prints from the AADL Collection (Dec. 2-Jan. 14). In the 3rd floor exhibit space. **Malletts Creek Branch** (3090 E. Eisenhower): Nature and Nurture: Art Teachers as Artists: Mixed Media by the Ann Arbor Art Teacher and Alumni Association (Dec. 16-Jan. 29). Mon. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m. 327-4555.

Clay Gallery, see Dancing Dog below.

Dancing Dog Gallery, 302 E. Liberty. Holiday Show (Nov 19-Jan. 3). Show of works by Clay Gallery artists. Wed. & Thurs. noon-6 p.m., Fri. & Sat. noon-9 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. 531-6565.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. MA Thesis Exhibition (Dec. 8-12). Works by Meghan Lee & Amanda Szot. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 487-1268.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals), Main Hospital: Woodland Seasons, acrylic on canvas by Elizabeth

Schwartz; The Art of Gesture, watercolor and Chinese sumi painting by Jean L. Thomson; Sterling Characters, silver jewelry by Betsy Lehnorff (all 3 exhibits run Dec. 15-Feb. 1). **Taubman Center:** Chasing the Cherubim, snowflake paper cuttings by Thomas L. Clark; The Motion of Standing Still, porcelain teapots by Mikey McGhee; Junior Duck Stamps, colored pencil works and more by Michigan and Ohio student artists; Folk Art Wood Carvings by Marlene Dusbiber (all 4 exhibits run Dec. 15-Feb. 1). **Cancer Center:** Michigan Life, watercolors by LeAnne Mawby Sowa (Dec. 15-Apr. 5). Daily 8 a.m.-8 p.m. 936-ARTS.

Jewish Community Center Amster Gallery, 2935 Birch Hollow. Ruth Bardenstein (Dec. 14-Jan. 31). Paintings and multimedia works by this local artist. Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. 971-0990.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Photographs by John Schultz (Dec. 2-Jan. 6). Reception Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., by appointment, and during evening concerts. 769-2999.

River Gallery, see U-M Rackham Galleries below.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Teen Arts Festival 2014 (Dec. 5-14). Works by area teens. Prizes for People's Choice, Best in Show, and best in each of 11 genres. Reception Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m. 3-8 p.m. (Dec. 6 & 11-13), 1:30-4 p.m. (Dec. 7), & 3-7 p.m. (Dec. 14).

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Letters and Leaves: Nature as Inspiration for Poetry (Nov. 29-Jan. 4). Poems by U-M students and alums, as well as poems submitted to a haiku contest, are displayed throughout the conservatory

galleries

and in Nichols Arboretum. Also, a seasonal flower display and evergreen trees decorated with exhibit-themed items. Mon., Tues., & Thurs.-Sun. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. 647-7600.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. Guido van der Werve: Nummer veertien, home (Dec. 13-Apr. 26). Continuous screening of Dutch artist van der Werve's 54-minute film that weaves together 3 stories of journeys away from home: the death of Chopin in Paris and his sister's quest to bring the composer's heart back to Poland; van der Werve's own 3-week trek to retrace the route of Chopin's heart; and the story of much-traveled warrior Alexander the Great. Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sun. noon-5 p.m. 764-0395.

U-M Rackham Galleries, 915 E. Washington (4th floor). Reaching for the Light (through Dec. 15). The Chelsea River Gallery presents an all-media exhibit of 2-D works that explore observations, lessons, and mysteries of the botanical world. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. chelsearivergallery.com

U-M Special Collections Library, Hatcher Graduate Library, 7th floor. Nicholas Delbanco: A Literary Life (Dec. 3-Mar. 19). Drawn from the papers of U-M English professor Delbanco, the exhibit illustrates the extensive range of his life and work. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 936-2312.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. WSG Annual Holiday Show (Dec. 2-31). Show and sale of paintings, jewelry, metal, photography, books, cards, glass, ceramics, fibers, and more by around 30 artists. Gala holiday party Dec. 5, 7 p.m. Tues. & Wed. noon-6 p.m., Thurs. noon-9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. noon-10 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. 761-2287.

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Fuente Ovejuna": U-M Theatre Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"You Can't Take It With You": PTD Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Sean Kent: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Friday Night Swing (& Blues)": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Every Fri. Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. Followed at 11:30 p.m. by blues dancing. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. \$5 (students with ID, \$4; \$1 discount for AACTMAD members) includes lessons. 417-9857.

6 SATURDAY

"Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Classic": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. Dec. 6 & 7. 150 teams from across the U.S. and Canada compete in the largest synchronized team skating competition in the world. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. (Dec. 6) & 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 7). Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$8 (seniors & kids, \$6). 213-6768.

"Washtenaw County Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Rob French leads a trip (in the WAS van) to the Arbor Hills landfill in Salem Township to look for unusual species of gulls. Dress for the weather; the landfill is usually windy. 8:40 a.m.-1 p.m., meet at the Park-n-Ride lot, Plymouth Rd. at US-23. Free. Space limited; preregistration required by email to webmaster@washtenawaudubon.org or by calling 645-2547.

31st Annual Arts & Crafts Festival: Ann Arbor City Club. Show and sale of photography, jewelry, dolls, nature crafts, woodworking, watercolors, children's furniture, ceramics, textiles, and much more by more than 45 vendors. Also, a sale of holiday greens, including wreaths, roping, and poinsettias. Lunch available (11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.). 9 a.m.-4 p.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw. \$3 admission. 662-3279.

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Heritage Guild. A sale of homemade items, including Christmas gifts, wooden and soft toys, ornaments, kitchen items, fine needlework, doll quilts, Christmas crackers, homemade baked goods, and much more. Also, bake sale, raffle. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Dexter Area Historical Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter. Free admission. 426-2519.

Annual Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center. Local vendors and artisans show and sell handmade

With musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 6) & 4 p.m. (Dec. 7), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$8-\$15 in advance at the Krest Center Box Office. 995-7537.

"Sleeping Beauty": EMU Dance Program. EMU dance professor Sherry Jerome-Wilkinson directs EMU dance students in her choreography of a 90-minute abridgement and adaptation of this 1890 ballet by Tchaikovsky and choreographer Marius Petipa. The score is performed live by the EMU Symphony Orchestra. An abridged version of this program is presented earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in 2 free 50-minute children's concerts (reservations required at 487-2448). 7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$8; children under 12, \$6) in advance and at the door. 487-2282.

"The Snow Queen": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. Dec. 5-7. Katherine Altman directs young local actors in Stacey Lane's adaptation of the classic Hans Christian Anderson story. Young heroine Gerda sets out to find her best friend Kay after the Snow Queen's magic mirror brings out the worst in Kay. Along the way, Gerda encounters good, evil, and a host of funny talking animals. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 6), 1 p.m. (Dec. 6 & 7), & 3 p.m. (Dec. 7), Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline. Tickets \$8 (students, seniors, & kids, \$5) in advance & at the door. 971-2228.

★U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes, Tony Kushner's celebrated 2-play series exploring the apocalyptic fears at the heart of contemporary culture, and Night Mother, Marsha Norman's controversial 1983 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about a divorced woman, living with her mother, who chooses suicide in an effort to take control of her own life. 7:30 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

"A Fairytale Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players. See 4 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. 8-10 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (enter through Haven Hall on the Diag side of the building). Free. 764-3440.

"Sounds of the Season": Measure for Measure. This local men's chorus, directed by Pioneer High School choir director Steven Lorenz, and Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus perform separate programs of holiday music and then join together for Tim Sarsany's "Listen to a Jubilant Song" and Craig Carnahan's arrangement of "Hark!

I Hear the Harps Eternal." 8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium. \$15 (kids age 12 & under and students with ID, \$12; seniors, \$10) in advance and (if available) at the door. 649-7664.

Katie Geddes & Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). An evening of acoustic music hosted by Geddes, a local folksinger who sings in a clear, strong voice. Her repertoire includes songs by everyone from Buffy Sainte-Marie and John Prine to Michael Nesmith and Lennon & McCartney, and her recent CD We Are Each Other's Angels has gotten airplay around the world. The lineup also includes Folkalley.com host Matt Watroba, a veteran Detroit folksinger who sings lyrical songs and poignant ballads in a sweet tenor voice, and Chuck Brodsky, a North Carolina singer-songwriter whose charming, humorous, incisively observed songs about the follies of ordinary people have provoked comparisons to John Prine and Loudon Wainwright. Also, All About Eve, the vocal trio of Geddes, Deb Wood, and Debra Gerber. They specialize in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes, some performed a cappella and some accompanied on guitar or piano. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662-4536, 665-8558.

Ashley Daneman: Canterbury House. This jazz-folk singer performs works from her debut album, Beauty Indestructible, that West Michigan Jazz Society describes as "an uncompromising concoction of subtle and intimate jazz with a touch of hipster singer-songwriter." 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 712 E. Huron. \$10 (students & seniors, \$5). 665-0606.

Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department. Dec. 5 & 6. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. \$7 at the door only. 763-5460.

"Gift of the Magi": Performance Network. Every Fri.-Sun., Nov. 28-Dec. 21. Suzi Regan directs the world premiere of local playwright Annie Martin's 2-person drama that offers 3 retellings—one set at the beginning of the 20th century, one set in the 1950s, and one with a contemporary setting—of the O. Henry story about the impoverished young couple who give each other the thing they each treasure most. Stars Alysia Kolasz and Barton Bund. 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sat. matinee), & 2 p.m. (Sun.). Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$25 (Nov. 28), \$41 (Nov. 29 opening night), \$34 (Fri. & Sat.), \$27 (Sat. matinee), \$39 (Sat. eve) in advance by phone and at pntheatre.org, and at the door. \$3 discounts for seniors age 60 & older, half price (except Sat. eve) for students with ID. 663-0681.

★"Beloved Opera Scenes": U-M School of Music. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

crafts. Also, a "Grandma's Attic" rummage sale, a bake sale, holiday music, refreshments, and more. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426-7737.

Hanukkah Bazaar: Temple Beth Emeth. Dec. 6 & 7. Show and sale of menorahs, candles, dreidels, gelt, toys, cards, kitchen items, music, jewelry, gift wrap, and more. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Dec. 6) & 3-7:30 p.m. (Dec. 7), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665-4744.

★Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Faire: Rudolf Steiner School. An artisan market, a toy room, storytelling and puppet theater, and activities, including jump rope winding and candle dipping. Musical performances, raffle, and refreshments. Preceded on Dec. 5 by an adults-only preview night (5-8 p.m.). 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995-4141.

★"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Natural History Museum. This family-oriented dinosaur program is highlighted by "Digging Dinosaurs" (11 a.m. and 1 & 3 p.m.), a presentation by Midland paleontologist Joseph "Paleo Joe" Kchodl, author of the children's book *Hidden Dinosaurs* and coauthor of the Dinosaur Detective Club series, on how dinosaur fossils are formed and the stories they tell. Also, a fossil dig, a dinosaur craft, a chance to meet and talk with some U-M paleontologists, and other family-oriented demonstrations and activities. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764-0478.

★6th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show. Popular local radio personality Lucy Ann Lance hosts a live broadcast of her old-fashioned radio variety show with musical performances, stories, local celebrities, and more. Refreshments. The show is broadcast on 1290 WLBV and 1290WLBV.com. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Travis Pointe Country Club, 2829 Travis Pointe (between Maple & Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.). Free. 665-8463.

★"Protecting Michigan from Threats to Climate and Environment": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Talks by Michigan League of Conservation Voters representatives TBA. Discussion follows. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. 9:45 a.m.-noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 995-8962.

★Saturday Morning Border to Border Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Sat. 22-mile ride, at various paces along the Border-to-Border Trail, from Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti, to decide where to eat lunch. 10 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 662-0205.

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. Dec. 6 & 7. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 30 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics and Christmas ornaments. Also, a kids' area with gifts priced for their budgets. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Potters Guild Studio, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663-4970.

"Wonders of Winter": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Kids, accompanied by a parent, invited for holiday stories, crafts, and wreath-making. In conjunction with the current holiday exhibit, *Letters & Leaves: Nature as Inspiration for Poetry*. 10 a.m.-noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. \$10 materials fee; metered parking. 647-7600.

Kylin Court: The Rivet Fleet Steampunk Collective. A holiday market with steampunk, pirate, and Chinese goods. Followed by a multicultural buffet dinner (7-10 p.m.) at Asia City Restaurant with live entertainment, including traditional Chinese music and dance as well as a performance that blends martial arts and comedy. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Plymouth Mall, Plymouth Rd. at Nixon. Free admission. Dinner tickets \$25 in advance at eventbrite.com/kylin-court-tickets-14234641195. dreadnaught@outlook.com

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. Dec. 6 & 7. With used puzzles and games, along with gift-quality books and books on CD. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & 1-4 p.m. (Sun.), AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 302-7774.

All the Trimmings Holiday Art Show. An array of works by local artisans, including wood carvings, counted cross-stitch embroidery, folk paintings, pastels, textiles, jewelry, bears, rug hooking, chair caning, and more. Also, antiques & collectibles, locally roasted coffee, and fresh Christmas greens. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, W. Old US-12 at Manchester Rd., Chelsea. Free admission. 475-2159.

★"Mega Sale & Extravaganza": Motawi Tile-works. Tile-making demonstrations, a tile sale, and a chance to make a tile. Door prizes, snacks, and discounts. Canned food and cash donations accepted for Food Gatherers. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Motawi, 170 Enterprise Dr. (north of Jackson Rd. between Staebler & Baker). Free admission. 213-0017.

5th Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show: Ann Arbor Women Artists. More than 20 local artists show and sell their works, including jewelry, prints, paintings, photographs, greeting cards, silk scarves, knitted gloves, and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Ann Arbor Women Artists Space, Suite 100, Jackson Square Plaza, 4844 Jackson Rd. Free admission. 662-6671.

Dexter Area Historical Society. Dec. 6 & 7. Two days of seasonal events at Gordon Hall, the 19th-century mansion built by Dexter founder Judge Samuel Dexter whose many rooms have all been lavishly decorated for the holidays. Dec. 6: "Christmas at the Mansion." All invited to make one of several country Christmas crafts to take home, including clothespin dolls, walnut/acorn ornaments, candle jars, and Christmas paper houses. Also, Santa is on hand to talk with kids. Carolers. Refreshments. Dec. 7: "If Teapots Could Talk." Light lunch and tour of Gordon Hall. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat.) and 1 & 4 p.m. seatings (Sun.), Gordon Hall, 8347 Island Lake Rd. (off Dexter-Pinckney Rd. just west of downtown Dexter). \$5 on Sat., \$25 (reservations required by calling 426-4767) on Sun. 426-2519.

★Christmas Party: Downtown Home & Garden. Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them Christmas oranges, and take their Christmas lists. Free roasted chestnuts, eggnog, cider, and, while they last, mouth-watering morsels of smoked Christmas turkey. Also, a petting zoo with livestock from the local Animal Oasis. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662-8122.

"Christmas on the Farm and at Dewey School": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. Dec. 6 & 7. This German immigrant pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Also, the log house features 1840s décor. New this year: a traditional Christmas program at the one-room Dewey School (time TBA). Singers perform traditional holiday songs, and a blacksmith works at the forge. Docent-guided tours of the 2-story brick farmhouse and of the school and sales of baked goods, holiday greens, and gifts. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 6) & noon-4 p.m. (Dec. 7), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. from I-94 exit 153), Chelsea. \$5 admission (kids ages 5-12, \$2; age 4 & under, free). (517) 596-2254.

★"Santa Visits Kerrytown": Kerrytown Market and Shops. Dec. 6, 13, & 20. Humans of Ann Arbor photographer Susan K. Campbell is on hand to take photos, which will be posted on one of the Kerrytown Market and Shops trees the following week. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Kerrytown Market & Shops upstairs. Free. 662-5008.

★Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway. Dec. 6 & 20. One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Awards for the top three finishers in each class. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. 10:30 a.m.-midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. \$16 to race. (517) 960-5252.

★Spanish Playgroup: Manzanitas Spanish Immersion Preschool. Spanish stories and songs geared toward kids age 6 months to 5 years, accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Manzanitas, 511 Miller. Free. (Park in the church lot off Chapin.) 369-6563.

★"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department. Dec. 6 & 13. Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M scholars. Dec. 6: Astronomy professor Emily Rauscher on "Peering into the Atmospheres of Strange New Worlds." Dec. 13: Kinesiology professor Daniel Ferris on "The Mechanics of Running." 10:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 500 Church. Free. 764-4437.

★Storytime: Literati Bookstore. Every Sat. 15-minute storytime geared toward very young children. 11 a.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★"Wonderful and Unusual Gifts": Nature's Expressions. Nov. 29 & 30 and Dec. 6 & 7. Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free admission. 994-3048.

★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. Every Sat. Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids age 3 & up. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★Children's Storytime: Performance Network. Every Sat. Performance Network staff read stories aimed at kids ages 4-12. All welcome. 11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Free. 663-0681.

★"Allen Elementary Bookfair": Barnes & Noble. Allen Elementary School staff host a program that includes storytelling (11 a.m.), photos with costumed characters (11:30 a.m.), musical performances by Allen students (noon), the Science Olympiad kick-



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off (12:30 p.m.), an introduction to engineering by U-M engineering students (1 p.m.), and face painting (1:30 p.m.). 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

"Annual Croissant Concert": Kerrytown Concert House. A popular holiday tradition featuring Today's Brass Quintet, an ensemble of area professional musicians that performs pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Members are trumpeters Mitchell Wechsler and Jean Moorehead Libs, tuba player Joseph DeMarsh, trombonist Brian Robson, and French horn player Alan Taplin. Croissants, coffee, & fresh-squeezed juice. 11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15-\$30 (students, \$10). Reservations recommended. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769-2999.

"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA. U-M student docents and UMMA staffers read stories related to the art on display in the bold and colorful current exhibition, *Reductive Minimalism: Women Artists in Dialogue, 1960-2014*. Followed by an art activity. For kids ages 4-7 accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. 11:15 a.m., UMMA (meet in front of the museum store), 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium. Every Sat. & Sun. and Dec. 29 & 30. Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. *The Sky Tonight* (Sat. and Dec. 29 & 30 11:30 a.m., Sat. & Sun. and Dec. 29 & 30 1:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 3:30 p.m.) is an exploration of the current night sky. *Season of Light* (Sat. and Dec. 29 & 30, 12:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual show that explores how telescopes work and what they can do. *Extrasolar Planets: Discovering New Worlds* (Sat. & Sun. 2:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual show exploring the likelihood that recently discovered planets outside the Solar System might be habitable or even already inhabited. Various times, U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$5. 764-0478.

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. Every Sat. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Discs can be borrowed at park office. Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$7 per player; free for spectators. \$5 vehicle entrance fee. 449-4300.

"1930s Christmas on the Farm": Saline Area Historical Society. Dec. 6, 13, & 20. A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas, with natural decorations. Also, docent-guided tours of the house and demos of a sock-knitting machine, quilting, and spinning. Gift shop & light refreshments. Noon-3 p.m., Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan, Saline. Donation. salinehistory@frontier.com, 944-0442.

***Volunteer Stewardship Workday:** Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. Dec. 6 & 7. All invited to help maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes; tools, snacks, & know-how provided. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. Dec. 6: Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area (1-4 p.m., meet at Scarlett Middle School parking lot, 3300 Lorraine off Platt south of Packard) to remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle. Dec. 7: Oakridge Nature Area (1-4 p.m., U-M parking lot, Glazier Way at Huron Pkwy.) to remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from this oak-hickory woods that harbors more than 100 native plant species. 1-4 p.m., various locations. Free. 794-6627.

"Creature Encounters: Reindeer!": The Creature Conservancy. Every Sat. All invited to view Sven the reindeer on the conservancy's Stone Stage (2:30 p.m.). Also, a chance to view the conservancy's other indoor and outdoor animals, including kangaroos, prairie dogs, an alligator, muntjac deer, snapping turtles, vultures, Arctic foxes, emus, eagle owls, and others. Indoor picnic area by a fire (bring a snack, if you wish). 1-5 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$6 (kids ages 2-12, \$4; age 1 & under, free). 929-9324.

***"Learn How to Play Mah-Jongg":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local mah-jongg expert Stuart Baggeley introduces his simplified version of this popular board game that's played with colorful tiles. 1-3 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4555.

"An Afternoon with A.E. Claus: the Alternative Environmental Santa": Leslie Science & Nature Center. Rent a Rambling Naturalist (Kalamazoo) owner Wil Reding appears as an 1890s-era Father Christmas—complete with a long brown hooded robe, staff, and a wooden backpack brimming with interesting items—to entertain with stories about holiday season traditions and remind listeners of the benefits of clean air and water and other gifts we've already been given. 1-2 & 3:30-4:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$8 (family, \$30). Preregistration required. 997-1553.

***SMTD@UMMA Annual Student Installation Concert: Over the Line":** UMMA/U-M School of Music. Classical and jazz student composers pre-

miere new music for small ensembles inspired by works in the museum. Each work features the saxophone, paying homage to the instrument's ability to straddle the division between classical and jazz idioms. 1-4 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

***German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History.** Dec. 6, 7, 13, & 14. Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, which is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical early 20th-century German American celebration of Christmas. Christmas cookies. Also, on Dec. 7 only, caroling (4-5 p.m.) around Kempf House's 1877 Steinway grand piano, with accompanist Sue Dempsey. 1-4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994-4898.

"A Fairytale Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players. See 4 Thursday. 1 & 3:30 p.m.

"Junie B. Jones": Theatreworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City-based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present its colorful, funny, fast-paced musical based on Barbara Park's stories about the rambunctious first-grader Junie B. Jones. The plot involves making new friends, helping the cafeteria lady, and putting on a half-time show. Geared toward kids in grades K-5. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$12 (MTF members, \$10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

***"Cute Clay Charms":** Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for kids in grades K-5. 2-4 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327-8301.

***Dinosaur Tours:** U-M Natural History Museum. Every Sat. & Sun. 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. 2 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764-0478.

***Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** Every Sat. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. 2:30-5 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761-1115.

***"Raptor Feeding":** Leslie Science & Nature Center. Every Sat. LSN volunteers feed and answer questions about the center's red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcon, and other resident raptors, who may come out of their enclosures to eat. 3-4 p.m. Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 997-1553.

***"No-Sew Fleece Pillows":** Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults and youth in grade 3 & up. 3-4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

"Strum & Drum": Oz's Music Environment. Every Sat. Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. on Dec. 6 only, a free Kids Open Stage. 3-4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. \$15 per family. 662-8283.

***Pittsfield Open Band:** Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Dec. 6 & 20. All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook*, Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection*, and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. Note: The Dec. 20 jam is a practice for that evening's dance. 3-6 p.m. (Dec. 6) & 4-6 p.m. (Dec. 20), Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. Free. 994-9307.

***"The Michigan Theater: Ann Arbor's Home for Fine Film and the Performing Arts Since 1928":** Bookbound. EMU film professor Henry Aldridge, head organist at the Michigan Theater since 1972 and a principal actor in saving the theater in 1979, discusses his book. Signing. 3 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369-4345.

"Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing-along led by former orchestra staff member Charley Sullivan as Santa. Musicians include trumpeter Becky Gawron, pianist Lori Zupan, and the Community High School Jazz Combo. Followed by cookies, apple cider, and photos with Santa. 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$12 (kids, \$8; family of 6 or fewer, \$35) in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, suite 470) & at a2so.com, and at the door. 994-4801.

***Choral Concert:** EMU Music Department. EMU choral director Brandon Johnson directs the EMU choirs in a program TBA. 4 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 411 Florence (off N. Hamilton north of W. Cross), Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels Fundraiser. Dec. 6 & 7. Tour of 6 Ypsilanti homes and the First Baptist Church. The Dec. 6 "Candlelight Home Tour & Taste of Ypsilanti" includes food from area restaurants and ends with an



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Rossini's *William Tell* More than an Overture

Attention opera lovers: on December 9, the orchestra, soloists, and chorus of the Royal Theatre of Turin will deliver a concert performance of Gioachino Rossini's *William Tell*, a seldom-staged work of epic proportions. *Guillaume Tell*, as it was originally titled, is a French opera by an Italian composer based on a German play set in early fourteenth-century Switzerland. The last of Rossini's thirty-nine operas, it was derived from Friedrich Schiller's final completed play, *Wilhelm Tell*, a moving dramatization of the Swiss people's struggle for autonomy under oppressive Habsburg rule.

The notorious scene where rebellious Tell is forced to shoot an apple off his son's head by order of Austrian bailiff Albrecht Gessler—a horrifying example of politically motivated sadism—has unfortunately been trivialized over the years, as has the opera's overture, a dynamic tone poem similar to Tchaikovsky's bombastic glorification of the military events of 1812. Both overtures begin with richly scored strings; Rossini entrusts the opening of his lengthiest opus to a resonant pack of cellos.

The ensuing "storm" episode has long been used as a stock arrangement for cartoons and cheesy scenarios, as has the bucolic idyll that follows. This gorgeous melody, intoned by English horn and flute, was dis-

tilled from the *Kuhreihen* or *Ranz des Vaches*, the Alpine herder's call to the dairy cows. The hammering, trumpet-driven "March of the Swiss Soldiers" has suffered more abuse than any other portion of Rossini's oeuvre, serving as grist for radio adventure serials, novelty acts, and even Stanley Kubrick's film adaptation of Anthony Burgess' dystopian novel *A Clockwork Orange*. Rossini is often remembered chiefly as a composer of finely crafted overtures; here's your chance to experience the most famous of them live and in context for a change.

In the poetry of Schiller and the musicality of Rossini, the panoramic landscape surrounding Lake Lucerne is painted larger than life. Dispensing with stage sets, maestro Gianandrea Noseda will focus on Rossini's orchestration and the wonders of the human voice. Originally more than four hours in duration, *William Tell* demands Olympic stamina and resilience from its singers, particularly the tenor cast as Arnold Melchtal, for this role has taken its toll on many a brave vocalist.

With a work of this length, cuts are expected. While Act II has the most in common with Schiller's play and is least likely to undergo surgery, the ballet music in Act III won't be heard. Note also that what's to be performed at Hill Auditorium is not the French-language *Guillaume Tell* but *Guglielmo Tell*, sung in Italian with English supertitles.

—arwulf arwulf

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afterglow dessert party. 5–9 p.m. (Dec. 6) & 1–5 p.m. (Dec. 7), various locations. Tickets \$40 (both days) & \$15 (Dec. 7 only) in advance at ymow.org, Nelson Amos Studio, Haab's Restaurant, and the YMOW office, or by emailing info@ymow.org; \$20 (Dec. 7 only) on the day of the show. 487-9669.

★Annual Holiday Parade: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. The 39th annual parade features floats, bands, baton twirlers, unicyclists, dancers, Mrs. Claus, horses, goats, dogs, Santa in his sleigh with his chief elf, a train boxcar, a hot air balloon, and more. This year's theme is "Your Favorite Christmas Memories." Followed by a chance for kids to visit "Santa's Village." 5:30–7 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429-4494.

Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, the 2-time defending NCAA national champion, prepares for the 2015 season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Ticket prices TBA. 764-0247.

"18th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. This ad hoc local vocal ensemble presents an evening of new and old favorites, from Motown to the blues, folk to rock, and, new this year, a dash of hip-hop. The concert features works performed with and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Performers include LaRon Williams, D. Yarrow Halstead, Edie Lewis, Laura Machida, Faye Askew-King, Robin Wilson, Cas-

sandra Compton-Montgomery, Deborah Greene, Jeff Pickell, Zakiyya Ali, and Mary King. With keyboardist Brian Buckner. Reception follows. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Public Schools Cooperative Outreach Music Program, an independent nonprofit that provides access to quality music instruments and instruction to hundreds of students with financial need. 7 p.m., Vineyard Church, 2275 Platt. \$15 in advance, \$20 (or what you can afford to pay) at the door. Kids under age 12, free. 761-7962, 369-4977.

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. Dec. 6 & 7. Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers ages 8–18 in a production of her choreography of Tchaikovsky's ballet, with narration based on E.T.A. Hoffman's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." The Dec. 7 matinee is preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a **Sugar Plum Fairy Tea** (\$12 in advance only) featuring cast visits and photos, and refreshments. 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. \$18 (seniors age 60 & over, \$15; students, \$12) in advance at balletchelsea.org and at the door. 475-3070.

"Tintypes": EMU Theatre Department. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Tryst": U-M Basement Arts. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Drum 4 Wellness Circle": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a drum circle. Bring a drum or use one provided. 7:30–9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$5 suggested donation. 480-1219.

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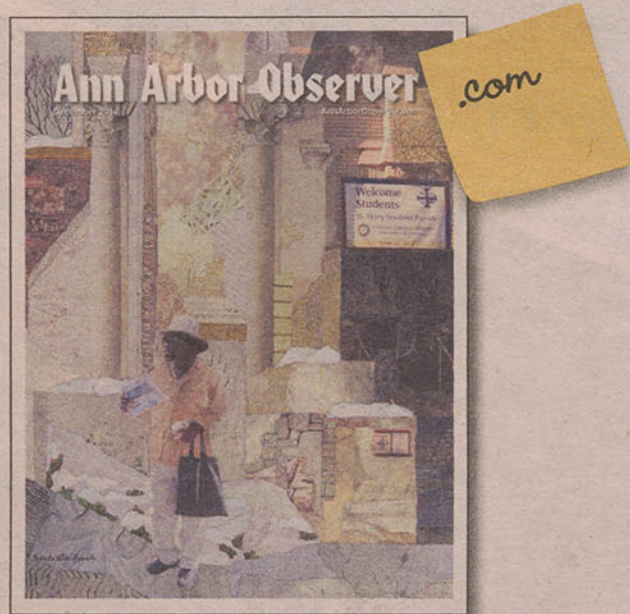
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★**"A Tribute to Richard Maltby, Jr.":** U-M Musical Theatre Department. U-M musical theatre professor Brent Wagner directs U-M musical theatre majors in a concert of songs from *Miss Saigon*, *Big, Closer than Ever*, *Baby, Ain't Misbehavin'*, and other musicals by this Tony-winning lyricist. Following the performance, Maltby discusses his career and answers questions. 7:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio One, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-2538.

★**"The Seagull":** U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from Chekhov's tragedy about the plight of the artist, the irrevocable passage of time, and a hopelessly misguided love that evokes both humor and pathos. 7:30 p.m., RC Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

★**"The Snow Queen":** Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. See 5 Friday. 1 & 7:30 p.m.

37th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Milonga Picante":** U-M Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Dec. 6 & 20. Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. 8 p.m.-midnight, Michigan Union Anderson Room. \$10 (members, \$5). umich.edu/~matc

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Ray Bantle calls to music by the Stout Hearted String Band. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. \$10 (members, \$9; students, \$5). 662-9290, 769-1052.

Fall Concert: Kopitonez. This U-M coed a cappella group performs both Asian and Western songs. 8 p.m., 1324 East Hall, 530 Church St. \$7. kopiboard@umich.edu

★**"59th Annual Study Break Concert":** U-M Friars. This self-styled "crack squad of 'supercrooners,'" an a cappella octet drawn from the Men's Glee Club, performs an eclectic mix of everything from slow ballads to upbeat dance tunes to original parodies that give a college-themed twist to classic songs. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. \$10 (students, \$5). um.friars@umich.edu

★**"136th Annual Handel's Messiah":** University Choral Union (University Musical Society). Dec. 6 & 7. Jerry Blackstone directs the 175-voice Choral Union, harpsichordist Edward Parmentier, organist Scott VanOrnum, and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano Janai Brugger, countertenor David Daniels, tenor Colin Ainsworth, and bass-baritone David Pittsinger. The Choral Union *Messiah*, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. 8 p.m. (Dec. 6) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 7), Hill Auditorium. \$10-\$36 in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538.

Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse":** U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

★**"Christmas Caroled":** Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Gift of the Magi":** Performance Network. See 5 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Annapurna":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Fuente Ovejuna":** U-M Theatre Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"You Can't Take It with You":** PTD Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Sean Kent: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

7 SUNDAY

★**"Caring Santa":** Briarwood. All kids with special needs are invited for a "sensory friendly" visit with Santa. The event is held when the mall is closed to create a calmer environment. 8-10:30 a.m., Briarwood. Free. 769-9610.

Gift-Fest: Ann Arbor Artists' Collective. 16th annual holiday show and sale of original works in jewelry, ceramics, glass, fiber, paper, basketry, and more. Refreshments & a raffle of artist-made ornaments. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. Free admission. 272-2901.

★**"The Essence of Tibetan Buddhism":** Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Sun. Talk by Gelek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. 10-11 a.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129

Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994-3387.

★**"The Ann Arbor Police and the Community":** Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talk by Ann Arbor police chief John Seto. 10 a.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, Suite C, 2401 Plymouth Road. Free. 994-4473.

Holiday Bake Sale: Peace Neighborhood Center Benefit. Sale of homebaked goods. All proceeds benefit the Peace Neighborhood Center. 11 a.m.-noon, Calvary United Methodist Church, 1415 Miller. Free admission. A2calvary.org

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sun. All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot. Free. hac-ultimateist@googlegroups.com, 846-9418.

U-M Detroit Observatory. Half-hour docent-guided tours of photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. 1-4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. \$5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763-3482.

★**"Country Christmas":** Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of a mid-19th-century Christmas, with period decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and live holiday music. Also, a chance to make period holiday crafts to take home. Handmade-crafts from local crafters for sale. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds. 1-4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$2 (family, \$5; seniors, \$1.50; kids, \$1; children under 3, free). 794-7120.

★**"Engaging with Art":** UMMA. Dec. 7, 14, & 21. Docents lead tours of the UMMA collection, with themes based on their interests. 1 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★**"Backyard Winter Birding":** Leslie Science & Nature Center. LSNC staff discuss the sorts of birds who winter in town and what to do to attract them to your yard. Followed, for those interested, by a visit to the LSNC feeding station and a birding hike. 1-3 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$9 (family, \$34). Preregistration recommended. 997-1553.

★**"The Snow Queen":** Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. See 5 Friday. 1 & 3 p.m.

★**Randazzo Dance of Ann Arbor: Barnes & Noble.** This Ypsilanti-based dance company presents excerpts from its current production *Clara & the Nut* (see 19 Friday listing). 1:30 & 3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. EMU. The U-M women's gymnastics team, the defending Big Ten champion and a perennial national power, opens its season with an exhibition match. 2 p.m., Crisler Center. Ticket prices TBA. 764-0247.

★**"Along the River Raisin":** Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads the first official hike at this new preserve in the southwest corner of Washtenaw. Wear boots that can get muddy and wet. 2-4 p.m., Riverbend Preserve, meet at the parking lot on Allen Rd. near the intersection of Allen & Clinton rds., Clinton. Free. 971-6337, ext. 334.

Advanced English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. With Dayton caller Kathy Anderson and live music by Steve Schneider, Susie Lorand, and Nadine Dyskant-Miller. For experienced dancers. 2-5:15 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). \$10. ffuerst@juno.com, (248) 288-4737.

Contact Improv. Every Sun. except Dec. 21. All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. 2-4 p.m., SOMA, 218 N. Fourth Ave., suite 204. \$5-\$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604-4416.

★**"The History of St. Joseph Catholic Church":** Washtenaw County Historical Society. Longtime St. Joseph parishioner Cindy Johnson discusses the church's history from 1836 to the present. 2-4 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 3430 Dover, Dexter. Free. washtenawhistory.org, 662-9092.

★**"Reductive Minimalism: Women Artists in Dialogue, 1960-2014":** UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of works by Minimalist women artists. 2-3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★**"Pearls of Wisdom: The Arts of Islam at the University of Michigan":** U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. U-M art history professor Christiane

poetry

Lorna Goodison

At home in the garden

We've been lucky to have Lorna Goodison among us for most of the last twenty years, teaching in the U-M creative writing program or in the Afroamerican and African Studies department. She has often traveled, returning to her native Jamaica, to her home in Canada, or to Great Britain and Europe, where she has a significant reputation as a poet. But for a long time now, and until she leaves town after her retirement this month, she has always come back here.

In "Ideas of Home," a poem in her most recent collection, *Supplying Salt and Light*, she writes:

"The rock" is what I call home,
all islanders do, and I'm in blessed Ann
Arbor,
mainland, where I found safe harbour
under
green sea of trees now becalmed, frosted.

We may have provided "safe harbour" for Goodison, but her books are filled with the images, the stories, and the language of the Caribbean. Goodison's fundamental commitments are to her island people; much of the historical and cultural concern of her poetry is with the African diaspora and the legacies of oppression. But she interprets everything through the lens of her own generous spirit.

Gardens and the people who enjoy them appear throughout Goodison's poetry, so it is certainly appropriate that one of her last readings here before her retirement will take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens on December 10. In "Hope Gardens," a poem from her newest collection, she recalls the famous botanical garden in Kingston, Jamaica, and is amused by recent interpretations of it:

Seated now in a seminar, you're prepared
as this post-colonial scholar unearths plot
after heinous imperial plot buried behind
our botanical gardens; and you think pity

the people never knew this as we posed
for Brownie camera captured photographs
by flowering trees, or, O joy, showed off
our wedding dan dan, by lily pond, lay
down ourselves careless in beds of canna
lilies, lost in daydreams of owning own
places with lawns the square of a kerchief.

Goodison has always respected the work such occasionally humorless scholars do to put colonialism in context, but she always, particularly in a garden, returns to the human beings who "come in order to draw strength / for the week from our own Hope Gardens."

Now Goodison will spend more time at her Canadian home on Halfmoon Bay, one of those fjord-like inlets north of Vancouver, where the "great bear of my dreams" is known to wander through town. She thought she might be afraid of this northern bear, but in those dreams the beast has found a new home:

Now the bear enters into our living room
where our lamp shaped like a horse
waits to be unpacked,

I shoo it with a damp dish cloth. It shows
no sign of being even one bit perturbed
and I wonder if the bear is thinking
of moving in, if he will sit in our arm-
chair, eat up our porridge.

—Keith Taylor

Gruber leads a tour of the current exhibit. 2 p.m., Kelsey Museum, meet at the Upjohn Wing entrance on Maynard. Free. 764-9304.

Ann Arbor TubaChristmas. All invited to bring an instrument and a music stand (with clothespins) to join around 40 players in this annual outdoor performance, now in its 17th year, of holiday carols on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of many outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of TubaChristmas founder Harvey Phillips. Registration and rehearsal in room 201 of the U-M Stearns Bldg. (2005 Bldg., off Broadway, North Campus) begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available (\$16). Bring a lunch. Hats, gloves, and sunglasses recommended. 2-3 p.m., Farmers Market. \$8. Free to spectators. 395-9544.

"Ariel & Zoey & Eli": Big Brothers Big Sisters. The singing trio of local 16-year-old twins Ariel and Zoey Engelbert and their 13-year-old brother Eli, hosts of the nationally syndicated TV shows *Ariel & Zoey & Eli Too* and *Steal the Show*, present a program of music from their 5 seasons on TV, along with some surprise guests and a festive holiday sing-along. A benefit for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washtenaw County. 2 p.m., Michigan Theater. \$5. 668-TIME.

Winter Welcome Hometown Concert: Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic. This local touring teen fiddle ensemble, made up of the recently reunited Saline Fiddlers and Fiddlers ReStrung, plays traditional American fiddle songs, bluegrass, and high-energy American folk. Also, guest performances by middle school fiddle clubs and the Saline Varsity Blues

choir. Attendees are asked to bring an item to donate to Saline Social Services, such as canned goods, toiletries, or toys. 2 p.m., Saline High School Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. \$10 (students, \$5). (866) 257-5333.

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Tintypes": EMU Theatre Department. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Gift of the Magi": Performance Network. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Fuente Ovejuna": U-M Theatre Department. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"You Can't Take It with You": PTD Productions. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★"Evolution of Whales": U-M Natural History Museum. Dec. 7, 13, & 14. Hands-on 20-minute interactive demo exploring how whales adapted to thrive underwater. Geared toward adults and kids age 5 & up. 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) & 11 a.m. (Sat.). Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764-0478.

★"DIY Snow Globes": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to bring a figurine or toy to install in a snow globe. Other materials provided. 3-4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield

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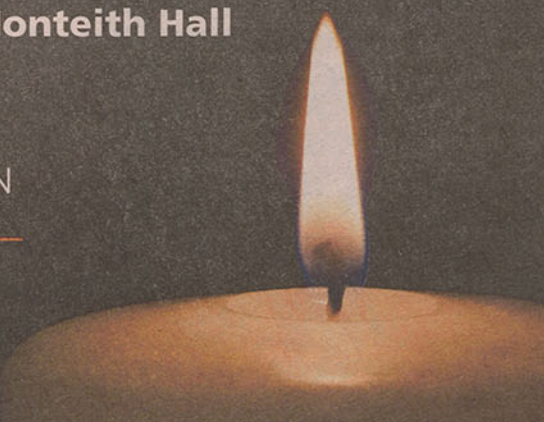
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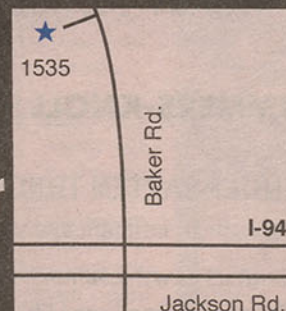
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★**"Love Changes Everything": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus.** Karen TenBrink directs the 65-member chorus in a program to commemorate WWI and Pearl Harbor Day, with songs of love and peace. Program: Mendelssohn's "Give Us Peace," Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Love Changes Everything," parlor songs from the 1910s and 1920s, and jazz songs from the 1930s and 1940s. 3 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport. Free. 944-2300.

★**"NaNoWriMo: I Wrote a Novel ... Now What?": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local fiction writer Donald Lystra, author of the Midwest Book Award-winning novel *Season of Water and Ice* and short story collection *Something That Feels Like Truth*, offers tips on revising your work and how to get it published. Q&A. Signing. In conjunction with the end of National Novel Writing Month, a nonprofit promotion challenging teens and adults to write a 50,000-word novel by the end of November. 3-5 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

Winter Concert: Chaverim B'Shirim. This local Jewish choir presents a program highlighted by music by contemporary songwriter and choral composer Jane Roman Pitt, a former chorus member. Also, works by Rodgers & Hammerstein, Bernstein, and Sondheim. Followed by refreshments. 3 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Donation. 663-1978, 971-0990.

★**"Holiday Bells": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra.** This volunteer community orchestra directed by Adam Riccinto performs a program of holiday music from around the world highlighted by some short pieces in collaboration with the **Detroit Handbell Ensemble**, directed by Michael Burkhardt. Also, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, contemporary composer Mark Simon's *A Tchaikovsky Christmas*, Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," and holiday favorites from films. 3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$12 (seniors age 65 & older, students with ID, & kids under age 12, \$6; family, \$30) in advance at ypsilantisymphony.org and at the door. 507-1451.

★**"A Fairytale Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players.** See 4 Thursday. 3:30 p.m.

Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorus. The AAYC descant and concert choirs of talented young local singers perform works TBA. 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 (tentative) at the door only. 996-4404.

★**"Sacred Songs": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Local soprano Norma Gentile, who accompanies herself on Tibetan singing bowls, is joined by harmonium and tambura player Atmaram Chaitanya for a performance of sacred songs drawn from the healing chants of the 12th-century mystic and abbess Hildegard von Bingen. 4 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$20. 665-0409.

37th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 5 Friday. 4 p.m.

Winter Fashion Show: Heavenly Metal/TeaHaus. Show of fashions from Heavenly Metal. Tea and sweets. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Ann Arbor Film Festival. 5 p.m., TeaHaus, 204 N. 4th Ave. \$20. Reservations required via email to cait@heavenlymetal.com. 663-4247.

★**"Building a Bright Future Together": Muslim Community of Ann Arbor.** Lecture by Howard

University academic affairs executive assistant Altaf Hussain, whose research interests include the integration of immigrant and refugee families, with emphasis on Muslim adolescents. Catered dinner. The program begins with the evening prayer. 5-8 p.m., Sheraton Hotel Michigan Room, 3200 Boardwalk. Tickets \$25 (youth ages 15 & under, free) in advance at mca-a2.org.

★**"18th Annual Evening of Dinner & Jazz": African American Cultural & Historical Museum Fund-raiser.** Buffet dinner with live jazz by Ron Brooks & Friends, an ensemble led by veteran local bassist Brooks and featuring Betty Joplin, a silky-voiced jazz singer from Lansing with a vocal style somewhere between Aretha Franklin and Natalie Cole and a repertoire that blends Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson. Cash bar. 5-8 p.m., Polo Fields Golf and Country Club, 2955 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$50 in advance by phone or email. aachmuseum@gmail.com, 971-7819.

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca*. Wear athletic shoes. 6-8 p.m., Gretchen's House Childcare Center, 1580 Dhu Varren. Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm. 717-1569.

★**"Pet Photo Nights": Briarwood.** Dec. 7 & 14. All invited to bring 4-legged, leashed, friendly pets that weigh less than 60 lbs. to have their photo taken with Santa. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Briarwood Sears court. Cost TBA. 769-9610.

★**"Music for Meditation": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** The acclaimed Oberlin-based young women's chorus *Voces Jubilantes* presents a program of chant and early music with a Marian theme, including works by Hassler, Handel, and Guerrero. 7:15-8 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. *Every Sun.* except Dec. 28. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. 8-10 p.m., Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom (Dec. 7 & 21) & Pendleton Room (Dec. 14). \$5 (\$10 includes lessons). 763-6984.

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. *Every Sun.* All poets invited to compete in a poetry slam judged by a panel randomly chosen from the audience. The program begins with a brief poetry open mike and (usually) a short set by a featured poet. 8-11 p.m. (sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m.), Silvio's, 715 North University. \$5 suggested donation. 985-0736.

★**"Chili Challis' UNclub Comedy Open Mike": Emergent Arts.** *Every Sun.* Performances by aspiring and experienced comics from former *Tonight Show* staff writer Challis's comedy dojo. Emcee is Mark Sweetman. Refreshments. 8 p.m., The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. \$5 suggested donation. emergentarts.com, 985-0875.

8 MONDAY

★**E.J. Copperman: Aunt Agatha's.** This mystery writer discusses *The Question of a Missing Head*, the first in a series featuring a New Jersey detective with Asperger's syndrome, who investigates the disappearance of a preserved head from a cryonics facility. He also talks about his brand-new book, *Inspector Specter*, part of his popular Haunted Guesthouse series. Copperman is a nom de plume of Jeff Cohen, who also writes humorous mysteries under his own name. Signing. 7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-1114.

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Oriol Sans conducts students in Haydn's Symphony no. 45, Corigliano's *Promenade Overture*, and Bernstein's *Divertimento* for Orchestra. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Piano Lounge Night with Ann Dahl": The Mix Studio Theater.** Dec. 8 & 29. Performance by singer-pianist Dahl and musician friends of hers. Followed by a chance for audience members to sing with Dahl accompanying. 8 p.m., Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Tip jar donation. 985-0875.

9 TUESDAY

★**"Gulf Women Today: Globalization and Achievements": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series.** Talk by WSU Near Eastern studies professor May Seikaly. Fourth in a series of 9 monthly lectures. 10-11:30 a.m., Rave Cinema, 4100 Carpenter. \$65 (members, \$45) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are \$20 a year. \$10 per lecture for members. 998-9351.

★**Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers.** Club members discuss beekeeping topics TBA. The program begins with an informal Q&A. 6:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. meghanom@gmail.com



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opera



Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg

The ironies of Wagner

If I say "Wagner," some of you will say "very long operas with supersized sopranos sporting Viking helmets." Plus, you'll probably add "the world's second-loudest anti-Semite, behind only you know who." And of course you'd be right—and wrong.

So, first the music. Everything you think you know about Wagner applies—and doesn't—to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. It is long—*The Met: Live in HD* broadcast on December 13 at the Quality 16 Theaters will run, counting intermissions, from noon to 6 p.m. And, as with his other operas, Wagner wrote the libretto as well as the music, so it is epic, the story struggling with that age-old balance of technique and feeling in art. But *Meistersinger* is also Wagner's only comic opera, meaning nobody dies.

It is also, at times, funny. Yes, Wagner, funny. Mistaken identities, jealous suitors, and comedic bits abound. While an untalented wannabe sings, a cobbler/mastersinger works on a pair of shoes for him, pounding in a nail for every mistake the singer makes. There is also love at first sight and, after surmounting suitable obstacles, the triumph of true love.

While true love is not—thankfully—limited to the svelte, or any other standard of beauty, it would not be inaccurate to say that Annette Dasch, the Eva in this production, is easy on the eyes. Opposite Dasch, tenor Johan Botha, who can't be accused of being willowy, but can be praised for both the beauty of his tone and his vocal

power, will be reprising the role of Walther. On the podium will be the incomparable James Levine, who's conducted at the Met for more than forty years. At age seventy-one, he seems to have recovered from injuries that sidelined him for several years and will undoubtedly summon the energy and endurance necessary for this mammoth production.

Back to Wagner's anti-Semitism. His repellent essay "Jewishness in Music" and his vitriolic attacks on Mendelssohn and other Jewish musicians deserve, and have received, the enduring revulsion of all right-thinking people.

But Wagnerian ironies abound; practically no one reads that essay now, but countless people the world over have found beauty and inspiration in Wagner's music. (Example: James Levine is the grandson of a cantor.) This *Meistersinger* broadcast will be seen in eighty-seven countries, from Albania to Uruguay, and will have a worldwide audience of nearly 100,000 people.

Some hold that Wagner based Beckmesser, the villain in *Meistersinger*, on a Jewish music critic and cite that as proof that Wagner's anti-Semitism even crept into his music. But there is another reference in *Meistersinger*, albeit unintended, that seems more important. Today we can hardly hear the name Nuremberg without also hearing the word trials. And those trials, and the atrocities that sparked them, are sadly, but also hopefully, far more widely known than even Wagner.

Those who already love Wagner's music won't want to miss this production. Those whose experience is limited have an ideal opportunity to challenge and expand their impressions.

—Sandor Stomovits

★**"Simple Lace Earrings":** Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"A 1,000-mile Great Lakes Walk":** Sierra Club Book Club. All invited to discuss Loreen Nieuwenhuis's book about her 2nd 1,000-mile trek on Great Lakes shorelines. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971-1157.

★**U-M Zell Fellows Reading:** Literati Bookstore. Poetry and fiction readings by U-M postgrad Zell fellows Rachel Greene, John F. Buckley, Nathan Go, and Maya West, as well as Zell alum Alana DeRiggi. The December theme is "Home for the Holidays." 7:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

39th Annual Christmas Concert: The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music professor emeritus Patterson directs this popular local choir in Christmas spirituals and works by African American composers. 7:30 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence. Free will offering. 769-4437.

★**"Opera in Concert: Rossini's William Tell":** University Musical Society. See review, p. 89. Giannandrea Nosedà conducts the Teatro Regio Torino Orchestra and Chorus in a concert performance of Rossini's final opera, a work rarely performed due to its epic scale and extravagant vocal demands. Recognized for its famous galloping overture, the opera dramatizes the life of the Swiss folk hero whose expert marksmanship is legendary. With soprano Angela Meade, baritone Dalibor Jeniš, tenor John Osborn, and bass Marco Spotti. Italian, superlatives. 7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$14-\$65 in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538.

★**"This Wonderful Life":** Performance Network. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

10 WEDNESDAY

★**"Doctor, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse, Physician's Assistant: Who Does What in Your Doctor's Office?":** U-M Turner Senior Resource Center. Talk by U-M Health System physician Carolyn Vitale and nurse practitioner Lynn Gregory. 10-11:30

a.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration recommended. 998-9353.

★**Brown Bag Recital Series:** U-M School of Music. 30-minute concert by IHM Motherhouse (Monroe) organist Terry Jankowski. Bring a bag lunch, if you wish; food available at the Crossroads Café. 12:15 p.m., U-M SPH Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 615-3204.

★**"You Can't Take It with You":** PTD Productions. See 4 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★**"Diasporic Koreans and the Military, 1930-1960":** U-M Nam Center for Korean Studies. Lecture by Northwestern University history professor Ji-Yeon Yuh. 4 p.m., 1636 SSWB International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764-1825.

★**"Myths and Realities of Youth Sport Head Injuries":** U-M Hatcher Grad Library. U-M Neuro-sport Program director Jeff Kutcher discusses concussion research. 5-6:30 p.m., 100 Hatcher Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764-3166.

★**"Webcomics":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local professional cartoonists are on hand to help adults and teens in grade 9 & up work on their own comics. All completed strips may be submitted for inclusion in the new AADL webcomics page. 6-8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**Lorna Goodison & Keith Taylor:** U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. See review, p. 91. Readings by these local poets, both U-M faculty members. Renowned Jamaica-born poet Goodison is known for her poems about the different roles a woman can play and her portrayals of her homeland. Her 2013 collection, *Supplying Salt and Light*, "continually surprises with its insistently elegant, spiritual core and crystalline intelligence," says a *Publishers Weekly* review. Tonight, Taylor reads poems about gardens and natural things from his 2 forthcoming works, *Fidelities: A Chronology* and *A Bird-while*. Signing. In conjunction with the current exhibit, *Letters & Leaves: Nature as Inspiration for Poetry*. 6 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. 647-7600.

★**"Chiropractic for Shoppinistas":** Guerreso Chiropractic. Local chiropractor Kathy Guerreso gives tips for healthy housekeeping and decreasing stress during the holiday season. Refreshments. 6:30-7:15 p.m., 3039 Stone School Rd. at Eisenhower. Free. 677-0823.

★**"All Things Dad":** Ann Arbor District Library. Nationally known "Dad" blogger Doug French, cofounder of the Dad 2.0 Summit scheduled to take place in San Francisco this coming February, discusses the evolution of the modern dad, as well as issues confronting contemporary parents, such as work/life balance, paid parental leave, and outdated media stereotypes. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**Patti Smith, Jon Milan, and Gail Offen: Nicola's Books.** These local authors discuss their history books. Smith's *Downtown Ann Arbor* explores the city's founding in 1824 and its subsequent expansion. Milan and Offen's *Grand River Avenue: From Detroit to Lake Michigan* details Grand River's history from Native American trail to horse trail, wagon rut, stagecoach route, plank road, and two-lane highway. Signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short stories. Bring about 6 copies of your work to share. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★**Jazz Concert:** Greenhills School. Performance by Upper School students. 7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4093.

★**"Annapurna":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"This Wonderful Life":** Performance Network. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**University Symphony Orchestra:** U-M School of Music. Kenneth Keisler conducts this music-student ensemble in Dvorak's *Carnival Overture*, Daigler's *Road Trip*, and Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

★**Chamber Choir:** U-M School of Music. Jerry Blackstone and Stephen Gusukuma conduct this music student ensemble in Respighi's "Laud to the Nativity," Wood's "Hail gladdening light," Praetorius and Sandstrom's "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming," Brahms' Motet no. 2 ("Schaffe in mir Gott"), Rutter's "What sweeter music," and Praetorius's "Es ist ein Ros." 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

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HOW STREETS ARE PLOWED IN ANN ARBOR

The City of Ann Arbor strives to maintain roads in the winter in order to provide a driving surface that is safe to use at reasonable speeds. The city does not follow a bare pavement policy because it is cost prohibitive, can have negative impacts on the storm water system and waterways, cause damage to roads and, in some cases, may not provide the safest roadway.

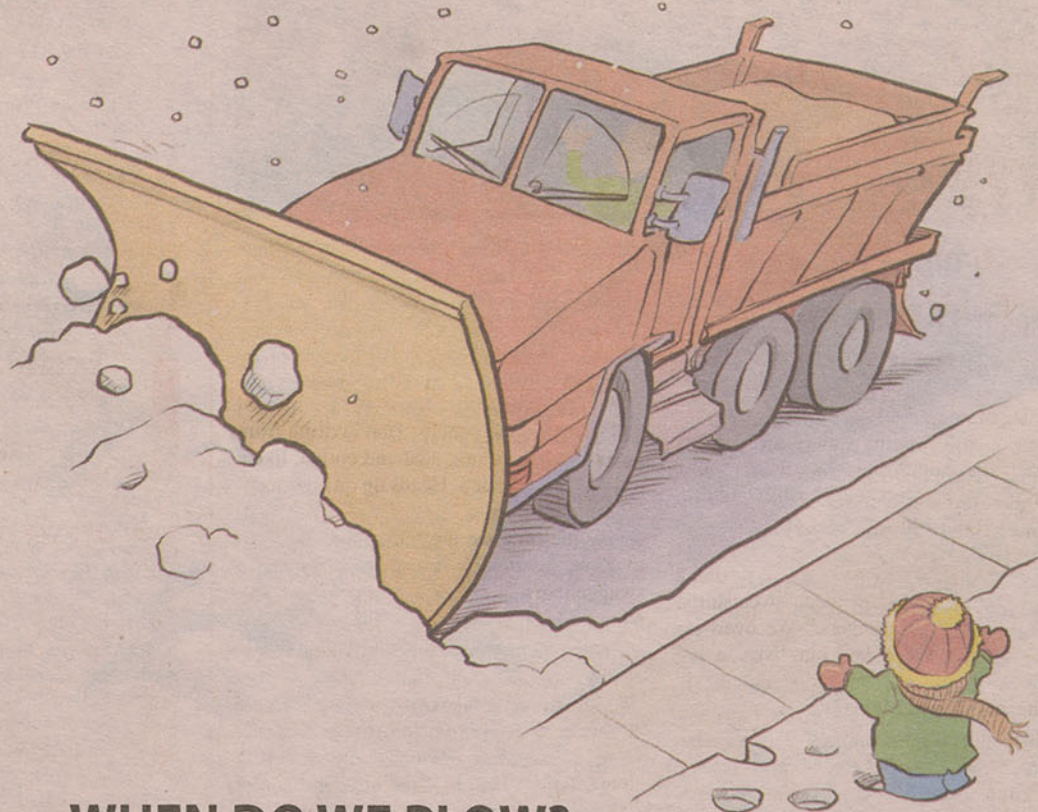
THE BASICS

- The city is responsible for plowing 98 miles of major roads and 197 miles of residential streets.
- The goal is to treat all streets within 24 hours of an "average" 4-inch snowstorm.
- Trunk lines, major roads and the next day's solid waste routes are plowed first.
- The city uses salt to treat trunk lines and major roads and a 95/5 percent sand/salt mixture for select residential streets and locations.
- Trucks and plows can be monitored via the web at a2gov.org/snow.
- The city's snow desk is activated during heavy storms. Call 734.794.6367 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. with questions or to report trouble spots.
- Schools and privately owned areas are responsible for their own de-icing and plowing.

SNOW EMERGENCIES

When a snow emergency is declared, special parking restrictions may go into effect. Where street parking is normally permitted, restrictions would allow vehicles to be removed so city services and emergency vehicle access can be maintained. "Snow emergency" streets must be kept clear of parked cars at all times during the emergency. Vehicles left in place on these streets may be ticketed and towed.

Residents will be alerted to a snow emergency via CTN Channel 16, a2gov.org (city website), Facebook ([facebook.com/theCityOfAnnArbor](https://www.facebook.com/theCityOfAnnArbor)), Twitter (@A2GOV) and local media.



WHEN DO WE PLOW?

A light snow or ice event will be addressed with chemical de-icing agents. Treatment begins with trunk lines, major roads, bridges, signalized intersections and selected streets with curves or intersections with stop signs. The response starts with the snowfall and takes four to five hours to complete after snowfall has ceased.

After trunk lines and major streets are treated, crews move to residential/local streets with additional traction agents, such as sand.

DEFINITIONS:

Trunk line: defined by state and federal law; takes priority for snow control/removal; serves vital role in transportation and connect to highways.

Major road: critical for travel within the city limits. May or may not connect to highways.

Residential/local street: most homes, apartments and businesses reside along residential/local streets.

After heavy snowfall of 4 inches or more, additional equipment and plows are deployed and the snow desk is activated. Crews and equipment are utilized as circumstances dictate. After trunk lines and major streets are treated or plowed, residential streets are addressed. During heavy snow storms, winter maintenance equipment is staffed on a 24-hour schedule (12-hour shifts) until all city-maintained streets are treated.

You can help large emergency vehicles and solid waste collection trucks by removing your car from curbside parking during and after a heavy snow storm.

a2gov.org/snow

chorales



Ann Arbor Community Messiah Sing

Half a century of song

After braving the first big snowstorm of the season and slipping slowly across town to reach the Ann Arbor Community Messiah Sing, the children and I finally enter St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church (at Genesis of Ann Arbor) while the orchestra is still getting itself organized. We sit behind a group wearing matching green sweatshirts, and I think, "Good, ringers." We overhear someone say, "We risked our lives to get here."

The organizer, Meg Gower, begins by asking if anyone drove more than an hour to get here. A dozen hands go up. Then she asks if anyone has a score printed in the past 100 years. We look at our scores and find, "Copyright, 1912, G. Schirmer, Inc." Wow.

Huron High School's choir director, Richard Ingram, is introduced as the conductor. He later tells me that he has been conducting this event for six years, and before that his own choir director at Pioneer High School, Bob Pratt, conducted it for twenty.

The orchestra—drawn from across the metro area, including cellist Ellen Weatherbee since 1966—begins to play, and a tiny band of stalwart tenors stands up. The music is familiar and comforting, but the conductor soon pulls in the altos to give them support, and we are in unfamiliar valleys, we are in the wilderness.

Inside my score, I see a name, "James P. Friedman '54," plus a Ferdon Rd. address. I wonder about all the people who have held this score over the years. I find different passages marked for alto, tenor, bass. Different colored pens and pencils. Handwriting from an earlier generation, neat and curled, like a third grade teacher's. Heads up on approaching trouble spots.

By the time we are telling good tidings to Zion, all my old choir habits and alto swagger have come back. My feet are firmly planted, my eye is on the conductor, I am rolling my r's, settling into the rhythm, having fun with the phrasing.

I am always moved by the beauty of the imagery in sacred songs. My children, however, who do not fully understand this iconography, start giggling at "All we like sheep." Then they really start giggling at "How beautiful are the feet." My daughter turns to me: "What. Is. This."

But everything comes together in the Hallelujah chorus. Even nine-year-old Little Brother is belting it out, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"

This year will be the fiftieth anniversary of the Ann Arbor Community Messiah Sing. "There are many other Messiah sing-alongs," says Ingram, "but none like this one. I think the choir likes to sing the solos after having listened to them for so many years."

—Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

II THURSDAY

Ikebana International Chapter 183. Master Ikebana instructor Janet Knowlton leads a session of this Japanese art of flower arranging. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. 1 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens (tentative), 1800 N. Dixboro. \$15 (members, \$8) materials fee; metered parking. (248) 685-7696.

"Holiday Ales": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen festive holiday ales spiced with fruit, herbs, and spices. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

"Story Night": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild members host a storytelling program. Audience members are encouraged to bring a 5-minute story to tell. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

***Jerry Dennis & Glenn Wolff: Nicola's Books.** Michigan writer Dennis and illustrator Wolff read from their collaborative works, *It's Raining Frogs and Fishes: Four Seasons of Natural Phenomena and Oddities of the Sky* and *The Bird in the Waterfall: Exploring the Wonders of Water*. Both acclaimed books illustrate and explore the natural world with wit, charm, and curiosity. Dennis also reads from his new book of prose poems, *A Day-*

break Handbook. Signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

***Nerd Nite Ann Arbor: Ann Arbor District Library.** Popular monthly event featuring several speakers TBA (at annarbor.nerdnite.com) who give fun yet informative talks, 18-21 minutes long, about topics that interest them, from nanoparticles to the science of the Simpsons and the genealogy of Godzilla. 7-9 p.m. or later (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Live, 102 S. First. Free. 327-4555.

***"Open Mike & Share": Bookbound.** All poets invited to read their own work or a favorite poem by another author. 7 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369-4345.

"Skylight": National Theatre Live/University Musical Society. Taped broadcast of the West End production of David Hare's 1995 drama about a schoolteacher who receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, a successful and charismatic restaurateur whose wife has recently died. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship but find themselves locked in a battle of opposing ideologies, heightened by mutual desires. Stars Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan. 7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$22 (Michigan Theater & UMS members, \$18; students, \$12) in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 7 p.m.

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"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company.
See 3 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★"Laughing All the Way": Washtenaw Community Concert Band. Chris Heidenreich conducts this 70-member ensemble in works by Irving Berlin, highlights from the film *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and the James Bond-themed "Secret Agent Santa." Refreshments. 7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. wccband.org

★Winter Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School. Performances by the PHS Concert, Symphony, and Philharmonia orchestras. Program TBA. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 994-2189.

"This Wonderful Life": Performance Network. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

"Christmasville: Two Holiday One Acts": Emergent Arts. Dec. 11-14 & 18-21. Paul Bianchi directs local actors in 2 one-act plays. Local playwright Tim Henning's *No Room at the Big Sleep Inn* is about 3 regulars at a motel bar who have gathered on a blustery Christmas Eve to perform a secret annual ritual in honor of the motel's deceased owner when an unwelcome stranger wanders in looking for a warm bed. Bianchi's *The Office Party* concerns an employee who must buy his boss a Secret Santa gift and boldly decides to give him what he deserves. Cast: Susan Morris, Tony Putman, Lisa Putman, Richard Sherburne, and Tony Klee. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (seniors & students with ID, \$12; \$5 discount for those who dine at Haab's Restaurant on the day of the show—bring a receipt) in advance at emergentarts.com and at the door. 985-0875.

"You Can't Take It with You": PTD Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 11-13. This veteran Milwaukee-bred stand-up comic is a frequent performer on cable TV who has also had her own Comedy Central special. Her act blends storytelling with sharp commentary on a mix of momentous and trivial topics. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$13 (Thurs.) & \$16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

12 FRIDAY

★Hanukkah Storytime: Barnes & Noble. All kids invited to learn about Hanukkah and listen to *Honeyky Hanukkah*, Dave Horowitz's picture book adaptation (with accompanying CD) of Woody Guthrie's Hanukkah song. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

Annual Holiday Sale: Yourist Studio Gallery. Dec. 12-14. Show and sale of works by local ceramics artists. Tonight includes an artist reception with appetizers and desserts. 5-9 p.m. (Dec. 12), 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 13) & 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 14), Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662-4914.

"Pets and Pajamas Movie Night": Huron Valley Humane Society. Kids ages 5-11 invited to watch an animal-themed movie and interact with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. 5-9 p.m., Humane Society, 3100 Cherry Hill (south off Plymouth in Dixboro). \$35 (\$15 for additional children). Preregistration required. hshv.org, 661-3575.

★"Festive Fridays": Main Street Area Association. Dec. 12 & 19. Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling with Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Tonight: the a cappella quartets Center Stage and Anything Goes, folk dancing by the Ann Arbor Morris Dancers, breakdancing by the U-M club Element 1, and kids activities by representatives from the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. 7-9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

★"Elf on the Shelf Storytime": Barnes & Noble. Reading of Carol Aebersold and Chanda Bell's Christmas book, along with related activities. For kids age 3 & up. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

"ELF!": Saline Varsity Blues Holiday Show. Dec. 12 & 13. This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7-18 presents a program of solo, duo, and small-group vocal performances of selections from the Broadway musical *Elf* about an orphan who's raised by elves at the North Pole and eventually comes to New York City to find his biological father. 7 p.m., Saline Middle School auditorium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets \$8 in advance at Busch's in Saline, Saline Community Education, and Rhythm Dance Crew Studio; \$10 at the door. 546-0264.

Note: Most educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Ann Arbor Senior Center. 794-6250. 1320 Baldwin.

Every Mon.: "Movie Matinee," with films TBA. FREE. 12:30-3 p.m.

Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. \$5 suggested donation. 327-0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

Dec. 20: "Spiritual Cinema." Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

Jewish Community Center "Falafel and Film." Film screening with a falafel dinner. \$12 (members, \$10). Reservations required. 971-0990. JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard), 7 p.m.

Dec. 6: "Footnote" (Joseph Cedar, 2011). Oscar-nominated Israeli film about the troubled relationship of a father and son who teach Talmud studies at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Hebrew, subtitles. Followed by discussion.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. FREE. 994-3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

Dec. 19: "What Dreams May Come" (Vincent Ward, 1998). Fantasy drama exploring the nature of the afterlife and its relation to existence and the imagination. Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra, Cuba Gooding Jr. Followed by discussion.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually twice, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668-TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$8; MTF members, \$7.50; films before 6 p.m., \$7). Michigan Theater (unless otherwise noted), times TBA unless otherwise noted. **Note:** See also U-M Copernicus Program in Polish Studies listing below.

Nov. 28-Dec. 4: "The Theory of Everything" (James Marsh, 2014). Biopic inspired by the memoir of Jane Hawking, the first wife of renowned physicist Stephen Hawking.

Dec. 3: "Awake: The Life of Yogananda" (Paola di Florio & Lisa Leeman, 2014). Documentary about the Hindu mystic, author of the spiritual classic *Autobiography of a Yoga*, who brought yoga and meditation to the West in 1920. \$10 in advance at <http://gathr.us/screening/9258>. 7 p.m.

Dec. 6, 7 & 9: "Goodbye to Language—3D" (Jean-Luc Godard, 2014). Visually thrilling story told from the perspective of a dog who strays from town to country and, over the course of some seasons, observes a married woman and a single man as they meet, fall in love, and fight. French & English, subtitles.

Dec. 6-10: "Awake: The Life of Yogananda" (Paola di Florio & Lisa Leeman, 2014). See Dec. 3 listing above.

Dec. 7: "Warren Miller's No Turning Back" (Warren Miller, 2014). Recognized as the world's premier ski filmmaker, Miller has been making family-oriented ski adventure films for 64 years. He's a major star on the West Coast, where his films draw packed houses for weeklong runs, and the annual Michigan Theater showing usually draws 800 to 1,000 viewers. Tickets \$15 (kids age 12 & under, \$12) in advance at Sun & Snow & all Ticketmaster outlets (ticketmaster.com), and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 9: "The Guide" (Oles Sanin, 2014). An American boy and a blind minstrel are thrown together by fate amidst the turbulence of mid-1930s Soviet Ukraine. The Ukrainian entry for the 2014 Best Foreign Language Film Oscar. Ukrainian, Russian, & English; subtitles. Followed by a discussion with director Sanin and the film's star Anton Greene. FREE. 7 p.m.

Dec. 10: "Love Actually" (Richard Curtis, 2003). A warm, bighearted romantic comedy about half a dozen couples in love, highlighted by a wizened, boorish rock star. Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson. 7 p.m.

Opens Dec. 12: "The Homesman" (Tommy Lee Jones, 2014). Hilary Swank stars as a pious pioneer who employs a low-life drifter (played by Jones) to help her transport 3 women who have been driven mad by pioneer life across country by covered wagon.

Dec. 13: "One Sleepy Night: The Musical" (2014). Premiere of this video of a December 2013 Michigan Theater performance of Don Hart and Jay Sappington's new family-friendly musical about a reclusive grandfather who avoids a family shopping expedition to stay at home with his granddaughter and decorate the Christmas tree. As he tells her the Christmas story, a play within the play unfolds, with members of the modern family becoming wise men and shepherds in ancient Bethlehem. Donation. 12:30 p.m.

Dec. 14: "Elf" (Jon Favreau, 2003). Goofy comedy starring Will Ferrell as a man raised as an elf at the North Pole who goes to NYC to reunite with his biological father. James Caan, Zooey Deschanel, Mary Steenburgen. FREE. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 14: "Downton Abbey." Preview showing of the 1st hour of season 5 of this hugely popular British period drama that returns to Detroit Public Television in January. Free (4-ticket limit) but reservations required at downtonabbeypreview.eventbrite.com. 7 p.m.

Opens Dec. 19: "Wild" (Jean-Marc Vallée). Drama based on Cheryl Strayed's memoir about the 1,100-mile hike she undertook as a way to recover from a catastrophe. Reese Witherspoon, Gabby Hoffman.

Dec. 21: "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946). Christmas classic about a man who wants to lasso the moon and an angel who hasn't yet earned his wings. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. FREE. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 25: "Mary Poppins" (Robert Stevenson, 1964). Wonderfully uplifting magical musical about the "practically perfect" nanny who transforms the lives of the Banks children in 1910 London. Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke, Ed Wynn. Sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth. Themed concessions. Tickets \$5 in advance at 665-4744; \$8 (kids age 12 & under, \$5) at the door. 10:30 a.m. (Doors open at 10 a.m.).

Opens Dec. 25: "The Imitation Game" (Morten Tyldum, 2014). Biopic about the English mathematician Alan Turing, who helped crack the Enigma code during WWII. Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley.

State Theater. For complete, updated schedule, see michtheater.org or call 761-8667. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$8; MTF members, \$7.50; films before 6 p.m. & midnight movies, \$7). **Note:** See also U-M Center for Japanese Studies listing below.

Dec. 6: "Three Amigos!" (John Landis, 1986). Comedy about 3 silent film stars mistaken for real heroes by residents of a small Mexican village beleaguered by bandits. Steve Martin, Chevy Chase, Martin Short. Midnight.

Dec. 7: "Miracle on 34th Street" (George Seaton, 1947). Heartwarming comedy about an amiable old man working as a department store Santa

who ends up in court on trial for insanity when he tells a skeptical young girl that he's the real thing. Edmund Gwenn, Natalie Wood, Maureen O'Hara. FREE. 1:30 p.m.

U-M Center for Japanese Studies "Studio Ghibli Collection: A 30-Year Retrospective." Retrospective of anime films from this famous Japanese studio. 936-7621. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$8; MTF members, \$7.50; films before 6 p.m., \$7). State Theater (except as noted), 7 p.m.

Dec. 3: "From Up on Poppy Hill" (Goro Miyazaki, 2011). A group of teens try to save their school's clubhouse from being demolished before the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Dec. 10: "The Wind Rises" (Hayao Miyazaki, 2014). Anime biopic about Jiro Horikoshi who designed Japanese fighter planes during WWII.

Dec. 17: "The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness" (Mami Sunada, 2013). Documentary about Studio Ghibli and its famous founder, Hayao Miyazaki. Michigan Theater.

U-M Copernicus Program in Polish Studies "Masterpieces of Polish Cinema." Regular Michigan Theater ticket prices (see above). 764-0351. Weekly series of restored classic Polish films organized and curated by Martin Scorsese. Polish, subtitles. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m.

Dec. 1: "The Promised Land" (Andrzej Wajda, 1975). Adaptation of Wladyslaw Stanislaw Reymont's 1897 novel about 3 Polish laborers of vastly different backgrounds who manage to overcome their differences to build and manage a textile factory founded on the principles of equality, trust, and respect.

Dec. 8: "Man of Iron" (Andrzej Wajda, 1981). Drama about the rise of the man who started the Gdansk Shipyard strike that gave rise to the anti-Communist Solidarity movement.

U-M English Department Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group. FREE. 764-2253. 1180 U-M Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel at Murfin, North Campus. 7 p.m.

Dec. 9: "Super 8" (J.J. Abrams, 2011). Sci-fi flick, set in 1979, about a group of friends who witness a train crash and investigate subsequent unexplained events in their small town. Pizza. Age 21 & older admitted.

Veterans for Peace Chapter 93. 487-9058, vfp93.org. FREE. First Unitarian Universalist Congregation (4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.), 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 14: "Joyeux Noel" (Christian Carion, 2005). Moving portrait of the celebrated 1914 WWI Christmas Eve truce when French, German, and English soldiers put aside their missions to play soccer. French and German, subtitles.

WCBN-FM. FREE admission. 763-3500. Arbor Brewing Company (114 E. Washington), 9 p.m.

Dec. 9: "The Devil and Daniel Johnston" (Jeff Feuerzeig, 2005). Documentary about veteran Texas singer-songwriter Johnston's struggle with severe bipolar disorder.

Glazier Way. \$15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665-8558.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. Dec. 12-14. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. 8 p.m. (Dec. 12 & 13) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 13 & 14), Power Center. Tickets \$25 (students & seniors, \$20; kids age 12 & under, \$15) available in advance at Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"Gift of the Magi": Performance Network. See 5 Friday, 8 p.m.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

***Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** Dec. 12 & 26. All invited to join an ongoing discussion of Rudolf Steiner's 1909 lecture series on *According to Luke: The Gospel of Passion and Love Revealed*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas is helpful. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House. Free. 944-4903.

"Great Expectations": Young Actors Guild. Dec. 12-14. Young local actors present this adaptation of Dickens' classic tale about the lad Pip, whose humble rural beginnings in a blacksmith's home lead to a glittering urban life, until a revelation about Pip's anonymous benefactor brings the young man back to earth. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 12 & 13) and 2 p.m. (Dec. 13 & 14), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$15 in advance; \$10 (students through college, \$5) at the door. aayag.org, 926-5629.

3rd Annual Holiday Pops Concert: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra is joined by the Boychoir of Ann Arbor, the men's chorus Measure for Measure, and a cappella choirs from Huron, Pioneer, and Skyline high schools in a program of seasonal music. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium.

Tickets \$10-\$45 in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, suite 470), at a2so.com, and at the door. 994-4801.

Donald Sinta Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. This ensemble of U-M alums, named for U-M sax professor Sinta, has achieved international recognition since forming in 2010 and was the first saxophone quartet ever to win 1st Prize in the NYC Concert Artists Guild International Competition. Members include Dan Graser, Zach Stern, Joe Girard, and Danny Hawthorne-Foss. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15-\$30 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769-2999.

Kim & Reggie Harris with Magpie: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). The veteran Philadelphia husband-and-wife duo of Kim and Reggie Harris, who specialize in African American folk and gospel music, are joined by Magpie, the D.C.-based folk duo of Greg Artzner & Terry Leonino, for *Season of Light*, a holiday concert featuring a mix of Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa songs and stories. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at



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"Christmasville: Two Holiday One Acts": Emergent Arts. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"You Can't Take It with You": PTD Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"The History of Ypsilanti": Dreamland Theater. Dec. 12 & 13. Dreamland puppeteers Patrick Elkins and Katelyn Schacht present a marionette and shadow puppet show about Ypsilanti history, from the formation of the Great Lakes to the founding of the Ypsilanti Underwear Company in 1904. 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.). Dreamland, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Admission charge TBA. 657-2337.

13 SATURDAY

"Breakfast with Santa": Briarwood. All kids, accompanied by a parent, invited for hot breakfast and cookie decorating with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Also, a performance by Kip the Magician. Proceeds benefit the Chad Tough fund at the U-M Health System. 8-10 a.m., California Pizza Kitchen at Briarwood. \$20 in advance at <http://ow.ly/E7Gud>. 769-9610.

★Eco-Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. Dec. 13 & 20. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. Note: Kids age 15 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 16-18 must submit a permission form. 9 a.m.-noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Dec. 13), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Dec. 20), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking at Matthaei). Preregistration required by phone or email. tgriffit@umich.edu, 647-8528.

Huron Gun Collectors. Dec. 13 & 14. About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. Admission \$4. (517) 605-0624.

"Friends at Front Porch Holiday Sale." Michigan artists and crafters show and sell textiles, yarns, ceramics, jewelry, paper, and found art. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Front Porch Textile Studio, 1219 Traver. Free admission. underwoodfrontporch.com, 662-7134.

4th Annual Holiday Arts & Craft Show: Aprill Wellness Center. Show and sale of blown glass, artwork, crafts, jewelry, body care products, homemade herbal teas, and more. Snacks. Gift wrapping available. Partial proceeds benefit Grass Lake Sanctuary. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Aprill Wellness Center, 107 Aprill Dr. Free admission. 649-6878.

★"Recycled Gift Wraps": Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department. All invited to make recycled wrapping, gift boxes, and bows to take home. Followed by guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center; closed-toed shoes and long pants required for the tour. 10 & 11 a.m., Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. Preregistration required for groups of 5 or more. 369-9272.

Holiday Greens Workshop: Ann Arbor Garden Club. All invited to make a wreath to take home. Bring a vase if you wish to create an arrangement instead. Bring clippers. Followed by brunch. 10 a.m.-noon, U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. \$15 materials fee; metered parking. Reservations recommended. dlooker444@hotmail.com

★"Baking Pizzelle": Downtown Home & Garden. DH&G Staffer Barb Kraft shares her family recipe and demonstrates techniques for making these traditional Italian holiday waffle cookies. Also, Andy Buchsbaum reads folklorist Eric Kimmel's *Herschel and the Hanukkah Goblins*. 10 a.m.-noon, Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662-8122.

"West Side Neighborhood Art Hop." The homes and studios of several west-side artists are open for a show and sale of their art and craft items. Live music at some venues. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., venues and map available at facebook.com/WestsideNeighborhoodArtHop and westsidearthop.wordpress.com. Free admission. 996-0702.

★"Miss Merry Christmas Beauty Pageant": Briarwood/Sunburst Beauty Pageants. Girls and women from infants to age 27 and boys from infants to age 3 are judged on beauty, overall appearance, and personality. Winners may participate in the state finals in May. 11 a.m., Briarwood center court stage. Free to spectators. \$45-\$115 to participate (preregistration required at sunburstbeauty.com). 769-9610.

The Tiny Expo: Ann Arbor District Library. Show and sale of holiday gifts by local artists and crafters. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., AADL lobby, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 327-4555.

"Art on Adare." Dec. 13 & 14. A holiday show and sale of jewelry by Idelle Hammond-Sass, glass by Annette Baron, and fiber art by Carol Furtado.

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8th Annual Holiday Studio Sale. Dec. 13 & 14. Show and sale of works by 6 local artists, including art books by Jean Buescher Bartlett, jewelry by Britany Campbell, ceramics by John Leyland, silk and wool wearables and fiber art by Michele Montour, porcelain pottery and lamps by Kate Tremel, and ceramics and sculpture by Monica Wilson. Also, a sale of hand-crafted chocolates by Sweet Gem Confections candy maker Nancy Biehn. Noon-5 p.m., Tremel residence, 627 Gott St. (off Miller). Free admission. 327-3727.

"Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg": Quality 16. See review, p. 93. Live broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera production of Wagner's epic comedy, set in Renaissance Nürnberg, about a guild of amateur musician-poets whose song contest is transfigured by romance. Stars Johan Reuter, Johan Botha, and Annette Dasch. A recording of this performance is rebroadcast on Dec. 17 (see listing). Noon-6 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets \$22 (seniors, \$20; kids age 12 & under & students, \$16) in advance at goodrichqualitytheaters.com/programs/met-opera-live-2014/ and at the door. 623-7469.

"A Holiday Extravaganza: Dancing Through the Ages" Arthur Murray Dance Studio. Professional and student dancers present a holiday-flavored showcase of the history of ballroom dance styles. Noon, Michigan Theater. \$15 in advance at ticketweb.com and at the door. 995-9500.

"Critters Up Close!": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Dec. 13 & 14. Leslie Science and Nature Center staff show live animals. Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities. 1-4 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

"German Paper Star": Ann Arbor District Library. Local crafter Beth Battey shows adults and teens in grade 6 & up how to make a 16-point 3-D star using paper strips. 1-3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

Classical Bells: Ann Arbor District Library. Darlene Ebersole directs this acclaimed Detroit-area handbell ensemble whose performances are known for their interpretive flair, technical skill, and informal choreography, along with a dash of humor. This popular annual concert showcases the group's varied repertoire of classical, inspirational, seasonal, popular, and even ragtime and swing tunes. 1-2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas": Common Language Bookstore. Local actress Anne Rhoades reads from Dr. Seuss's classic Christmas tale. Snacks and an activity. 2 p.m., Common Language, 317 Braun Ct. Free. 663-0036.

"Darkness": Bookbound. Michigan writer Erin Eveland discusses her new young adult fantasy about a 16-year-old girl born with a supernatural power. Signing. 3 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369-4345.

50th Annual Community Messiah Sing. See review, p. 95. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 40 to 50 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by Richard Ingram. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 2:30 p.m. Cider, water, and hot tea provided; bring goodies to share. 3 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. \$5 suggested donation to help defray cost of using the building. Prospective orchestra members should contact Meg Gower at megower@umich.edu or 433-0150.

Treetown Community Chorus. David Perampl directs this independent local mixed chorus in a varied program of seasonal music, along with a doo-wop medley. Piano accompanist is Corky Landes. Followed by a potluck. 4 p.m., Gladwin barn, 4105 W. Liberty. Free; donations accepted. 355-7738.

"Holiday Hustle": Running Fit. Competitive 5-km run/walk with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories, and a 1-mile fun run. 4:15 p.m., Monument Park, downtown Dexter. 5-km run: \$29 before Dec. 5 & \$35 race weekend for adults, \$24 before Dec. 5 and \$30 race weekend for age 17 & under. Fun Run: \$24 before Dec. 5 & \$30 race weekend for adults, \$15 before Dec. 5 and \$20 race weekend for age 17 & under. Preregistration available at run-holiday5k.com. 426-1175.

"Christmas Family Celebration and Sing-Along": Westminster Presbyterian Church. All

invited for a casual carol sing-along. Cookies provided to decorate and take home. Donation of new, unopened toys appreciated. 4:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 761-9320.

Parents' Night Out: The Creature Conservancy. Kids in grades K-6 invited for games, activities, holiday photos with Sven the baby reindeer, a chance to make a gift to take home, and more. Pizza dinner & hot chocolate. 5-10 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$65. Reservations required. info@thecreatureconservancy.org. 929-9324.

2nd Saturday Scandinavian Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Swedish and Norwegian dancing to recorded and live music. No partner necessary. Wear flat shoes with smooth, hard soles if you have them. The program begins with a lesson by Bruce Sagan and Suzanne Schluederberg. 6-7 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). \$5 (students, \$3). (908) 721-2599.

"Annual Holiday Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. The program begins with a social hour (bring a healthy snack or dessert to share). Tea is served. 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free, but donations accepted. 761-7435.

International Folk Dancing: Ann Arbor Folkdancers. Dec. 13 & 22. Dancing to recorded "golden oldies" (Dec. 13) & other recorded music (Dec. 22). No partner needed; beginners welcome. The program begins with a lesson. 7-10 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. \$5 (students, \$3). 709-8748.

Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America. The program includes a story by speech artist Beatrice Voigt, a eurythmy performance led by Claudia Fontana, and Christmas carol singing. Followed by socializing. Bring a holiday sweet to share; beverages provided. 7-8:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 678-5497, (517) 927-3696.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See *Inside Ann Arbor*, p. 13. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of boys ages 8-18 in its 28th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The featured work is Welsh composer William Mathias's *Ave Rex*, an exuberant carol sequence that includes settings of four well-known medieval texts—"Ave Rex," "Alleluya, a new work is come on hand," "There is no rose of such virtue," and "Sir Christemas"—and a virtuosic organ part that's performed by First Presbyterian Church (Ypsilanti) organist Aaron Tan. Also, an arrangement of "Deck the Halls" in 7/8 time, Hubert Parry's setting of the 15th-century carol "Welcome, Yule," Kenneth Leighton's sublime setting of the "Coventry Carol" with boy soprano solo, English composer Bob Chilcott's setting for trebles of "In the bleak midwinter," and Mack Wilberg's lively setting of the Caribbean carol "The Virgin Mary had a baby boy." Also, performance by the Young Men's Ensemble (older boys with changed voices) and the Preparatory choir (boys ages 7-11). Audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. This popular annual concert usually sells out. 3 & 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10; youths 17 & under, \$5) in advance at aabochoir.org and at the door. 663-5377.

San, Emily, & Jacob: Mangiamo Italian Grill Acoustic Routes Concert. The local father-and-daughter acoustic duo of San & Emily Slomovits are joined by bassist Jacob Warren to perform a wide range of traditional and contemporary folk, jazz, and classical music, including material from their CD, *Innocent When You Dream*. 7:30 p.m., Mangiamo, 107 W. Michigan Ave, Saline. \$10 by reservation and at the door. Preferred seating for dinner customers. 429-0060.

"Great Expectations": Young Actors Guild. See 12 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"19th Century Masked Fantasy Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy Victorian Ball. Various 19th-century dances in an atmosphere that evokes Venetian Carnival balls of the 18th century and "fancy dress" balls popular in the late 19th century. Attendees encouraged to come in "fancy dress," costumed as a historical or fictional character or as someone from any period from the middle ages to the late 19th century. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by dance lessons. 7:45-11 p.m., Pittsfield

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Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. \$30 (includes lessons). Pre-registration requested at vintagedance.com.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance: Sharon Hollow String Band. Mark Hillegonds calls to music by the band. Some couples dancing. No partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. 8-11 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). \$10 (students, \$5). 408-1829, 649-6426.

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Singles and couples invited. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. 8-10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$10. 822-2120.

2nd Saturday Scandinavian Music Jam. Local fiddler Bruce Sagan hosts a jam for all musicians interested in playing Swedish and Norwegian tunes. 8-10 p.m., Sagan residence, 2059 Georgetown Blvd. Free. (908) 721-2599, sagan@math.msu.edu

George Shirley Scholarship Fundraiser: Kerrytown Concert House. U-M voice professor emeritus George Shirley, baritone Daniel Washington, pianists Kathryn Goodson and Louise Toppin, the popular local chorus Our Own Thing Chorale, 2014 scholarship competition winners, and sopranos Caroline Helton, Leberta Loral, and Kimwana Doner celebrate the release of *George Shirley at 80: My Time Has Come*, Shirley's debut solo CD that includes Roland Hayes's song cycle *The Life of Christ* and Shirley's favorite spirituals by other African American composers. Proceeds benefit the George Shirley Scholarship for U-M voice students. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$20 general admission. Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

"SATBrass": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen directs this local chamber choir, accompanied by the Motor City Brass Band, in a program highlighted by Pinkham's Christmas Cantata and his delightful Nativity madrigals. Reception follows. 8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$20 (students & seniors, \$15) in advance from VAE members and at vocalartsannarbor.org.

Bliss: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. The local trio of singer-songwriter Laura Massaro, guitarist Craig Brann, and percussionist Don Allen performs an eclectic mix of pop, folk, and world music, including originals, covers, and improvisations. 8-10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$8 (\$15 for 2). 665-0409.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 12 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Gift of the Magi": Performance Network. See 5 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Christmasville: Two Holiday One Acts": Emergent Arts. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"You Can't Take It With You": PTD Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"The History of Ypsilanti": Dreamland Theater. See 12 Friday. 8:30 p.m.

"Lift Off: Found": A2 Aviary. Aerial and acrobatic acts by A2 Aviary instructors and students. This month's program revolves around the concepts of community, family, and friends. The program ends with dancing to music spun by DJ Selina Style. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 8:30 p.m.), A2 Aviary, 4720 S. State. \$10. contact@a2aviary.com, 726-0353.

14 SUNDAY

"Homegrown at the Cobblestone." Nov. 30 & Dec. 14. Show and sale of handmade arts and crafts by local artists. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free admission. 276-4025.

"Santa Central": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Kids invited to visit with Santa, play reindeer games, and enjoy a hayride. Snack. Photos with Santa available for \$2, or bring your own camera. 10 a.m. and 12:30 & 2:30 p.m., Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$6 per child (adults, \$3; kids under age 1, free). Pre-registration required. \$5 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

"Brewing Methods": Zingerman's Coffee Company. Zingerman's Coffee Co. staff demonstrate and discuss 6-8 different ways to brew coffee, from filter drip to siphon pot. 1-3 p.m., Zingerman's Coffee Company, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$30. 929-6060.

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate with Frosty the Snowman to re-

corded holiday music. Free candy canes. 1-2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 794-6235.

"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. First Steps Washtenaw instructor Monica Higman leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a program of music and movement. 1-1:40 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. 1-4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4200.

Winter Holiday Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. AAFSC members of various ages and skating levels present freestyle, ice dance, and pairs performances. 1-3 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. Cash or canned food donation for Food Gatherers. 213-6768.

"Keeping Faith in Congress: Building Peace at Home and Abroad": Friends Meetinghouse. Friends Committee on National Legislation executive secretary Diane Randall discusses shared security, domestic and foreign militarism, the Islamic State, and more. 1:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free. 995-6803.

"Of All the Galls!": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look for plant galls (abnormal growths of plant tissue), including blueberry stem galls, goldenrod spindle galls, bunch galls, oak bullet galls, and others. Stoner also discusses the life cycle of the insects responsible for these galls and how galls can help with plant identification. 2-4 p.m., West Lake Preserve, meet on the north side of Waterloo Rd. between Werkner and McKinley, east of M-52, Chelsea. Free. 971-6337, ext. 334.

Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to celebrate the primal mother and father deities, Danu and Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. 2-5 p.m., ICC Education Center, 1522 Hill St. Free. 277-1897.

"Suspended Moments: Photographs from the David S. Rosen Collection": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of photos by photographers known for their images of childhood, including Sally Mann, Dawoud Bey, and Helen Levitt, as well as photos by the late Rosen, who was a U-M pediatrician. 2-3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. 2-5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678-7549, 761-1451.

"On Our Way to Bethlehem": First United Methodist Church. Carole DeHart directs the church's children's vocal choirs—Epworth Choir, Carol Choir, and Cherub Choir—and Children's Hand-chime Choir in Roger Emerson & John Jacobson's 25-minute children's musical exploring the meaning of Christmas. 2 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. Donation. 662-4536.

Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday music highlighted by *In the Christmas Mood*, John Wasson's big band arrangement that wraps the big band classic "In the Mood" around a medley of Christmas standards, including "A Holly Jolly Christmas," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!," "Frosty the Snow Man," and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." The program concludes with a visit from Santa, who provides candy canes for kids and joins a sing-along of traditional Christmas songs. 2 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426-2734.

All about the Trio: Music of George Gershwin, Part 2": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe leads her trio and guest trumpeter Bill Lucas in the group's 2nd lecture-concert tribute to Gershwin (the first was in October). With bassist Paul Keller and drummer Pete Siers. 2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769-2999.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 12 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Great Expectations": Young Actors Guild. See 12 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Gift of the Magi": Performance Network. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Christmasville: Two Holiday One Acts": Emergent Arts. See 11 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 p.m.

"Felt Gift Boxes": Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 3-4:30 p.m., AADL Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

"Gloria! A Christmas Concert": St. Thomas Catholic Church. Lucia Campbell directs the church's adult and children's choirs in selections from Lorenzo Perosi's *Missa Pontificalis*, Gustav Holst's "Christmas Day," Schram and Cabaniss's "The Incredible Adam Angel," and other seasonal favorites. Soloists include Nancy Murphy and Campbell. Accompanists are trumpeter William Campbell and pianist-organist Jihye Kim. 3 p.m., St. Thomas Catholic Church, Elizabeth at Kingsley. Freewill donation. 761-8606.

"Holiday Community Jam": Community Music School of Ann Arbor. All instrumentalists and singers invited to play and sing holiday music. Sheet music & warm holiday treats provided. All levels welcome. 4-6 p.m., Community Music School of Ann Arbor, 1289 Jewett. \$10 (families, \$30). cmsa2.org, 213-2000.

"A Garland of Madrigals": Ann Arbor Grail Singers. Carmen Cavallaro directs this 17-voice women's early-music choir in secular and sacred works by the little-known Italian Renaissance composer Vittoria Aleotti. Today's program includes Aleotti's *Sacrae cantiones* motets, which were the first book of sacred music by a woman to appear in print, and her 21 madrigals, which were written before she entered a convent at age 14. Accompanists are viola da gambist Debra Loneragan, recorder player Beth Gilford, and chamber organist Anne Crawford. 4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Parking available at Community High School. \$15 (seniors, \$12; students, \$5). AnnArborGrailSingers.org, 662-0631.

"Swordspoint": Rainbow Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of Ellen Kushner's 2003 fantasy set in a world where duels settle various disputes, until one death by sword is met with outrage instead of awe. Followed by the group's annual holiday party and white elephant gift exchange. 4:30-6 p.m., Classic Cup Cafe. Free; buy your own dinner. lorrelsu@hotmail.com

"Sunday Roast Dinner": Zingerman's Cornman Farms. Cornman Farms managing partner Kieron Hales, himself an Englishman, hosts a traditional English roast dinner that begins with a glass of spiced mulled wine and includes roast beef, potatoes, seasonal vegetables, along with the standard accompaniments of horseradish and cream sauce, apple and brandy sauce, Yorkshire pudding, and homemade jams. 5-9 p.m., Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. \$85. Reservations required. 619-8100.

Miriam Brysk: Temple Beth Emeth Evenings in the Library. This Holocaust survivor from Warsaw discusses *The Stones Weep*, her new book that was named "Book of the Year" by Independent Publishers of New England. The book combines survivors' art with teacher-created Holocaust lesson plans that meet state and national curriculum standards. Q&A and signing. 6-7:30 p.m., TBE Library, 2309 Packard. Free, but reservations required. tbe_library@templebethemeth.org

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in Dance Alliance's 17th annual production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. 2 & 7 p.m., Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets \$13. 429-9599.

"Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam": Ann Arbor Senior Center. Dec. 14 & 28. All singers, acoustic & electric guitarists, bassists, mandolinists, banjoists, ukulele players, percussionists, keyboardists, and other musicians invited to join organizer Michael Niemi to play folk, rock, country, or original tunes. Bring a music stand and copies of sheet music. Listeners welcome. 7-9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 (members, free). Pre-registration required for musicians at meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam. 794-6250.

"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen": Northside Community Church. Sheree and Paul Clark direct the church's chancel and bell choirs and guest vocalists and instrumentalists in a program of festive and tender Christmas music. Accompanists are Susie and Kathryn Goodson on organ and piano. Reception follows. 7 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free; donations accepted for a local nonprofit. 662-6351.

Dexter Community Orchestra. This volunteer ensemble is joined by the Dexter High School Concert & Chamber Orchestras and the Washtenaw Community Orchestra Chorus for performances of part 1 of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Rutter's "Donkey Carol"

and "Jesus Child Star Carol," Fred Waring's "Night Before Christmas," Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and a Leroy Anderson Christmas medley sing-along. Also, the Dexter High School Concert Orchestra performs a work TBA. Anthony Elliott conducts. 7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 355-0725.

"Chili Challis' UNclub Comedy Open Mike": Emergent Arts. See 7 Sunday. 8 p.m.

15 MONDAY

Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects together and learn about guild activities. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. 6:45-9 p.m., Pittsfield Condominium Community Bldg., 2220 Pittsfield Blvd. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues for those who join). 994-4385.

"Snowman Jewelry": Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults & kids in grade 6 & up using beads, wire, and basic jewelry-making techniques. 7-8 p.m., AADL Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

"[E]met: An Honest Conversation about Death": Temple Beth Emeth. All invited to join the first in a monthly series of informal discussions about death and how to make the most of life. 7-8:30 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. aostfield@templebethemeth.org

Band Concert: Huron High School. Students perform works TBA. 7:30 p.m., Huron High Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994-2040.

16 TUESDAY

Polka Jam Session. All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. Preceded at 6 p.m. by dinner (\$5-\$8). 7-9 p.m., American Legion Hall, 44 Wabash St. (south off Main), Milan. Free. 529-3903.

Skazat! Poetry Series at Sweetwaters. Local poet Scott Beal, an award-winning U-M creative writing grad, reads from *Wait 'Til You Have Real Problems*, his recently published debut collection which deploys familiar characters from Rapunzel to Perseus and whimsically surreal tall tales to explore the varied and violent forces that shape human identities. MacArthur-winning poet and former U-M English professor Alice Fulton praises Beal's "revelatory" tales for their "surprising linguistic and narrative moves [that] elicit the unbidden traumas and dazzling weirdness of lived experience." The program begins with open mike readings. 7-8:30 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 994-6663.

"Alice in Wonderland": Quality 16. Live broadcast of the Royal Opera House production of English choreographer Christopher Wheeldon's acclaimed 2011 ballet, with a Joby Talbot score, adapted from the Lewis Carroll fantasy classic. 7-10:30 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets \$16 in advance at gqti.com and at the door. 623-7469.

"Tales and Travels from Around the Globe": Huron Valley Sierra Club. Club members and others show slides of their most adventurous trips. Refreshments. Send 10-15 digital photos to lighthawkpilot@gmail.com to participate. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. 665-0248.

The Moth Storyslam: Michigan Radio. Monthly open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3-5 minute story on the monthly theme. December theme: "Rewards." The 3 teams of judges are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Space limited, so it's smart to arrive early. 7:30-9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), The Circus, 210 S. First. \$5. 764-5118.

"This Wonderful Life": Performance Network. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

17 WEDNESDAY

"Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg": Quality 16. See 13 Saturday. 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center. All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who shares some Christmas stories. All invited to bring some snacks to share and their kids. 7-9:30 p.m., Deep Spring Center, 3820 Packard, suite 280. Free, but donations are accepted. 477-5848.

"Images of America: Downtown Ann Arbor": Ann Arbor District Library. Local writer Patti Smith presents a slide-illustrated talk on her new

book about the history of downtown Ann Arbor and the people who lived and worked there. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 & 7 p.m.

***Winter Sing: Pioneer High School.** Performances by all of the PHS choirs. Program TBA. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 994-2189.

"This Wonderful Life": Performance Network. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

***Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss Laura Shapiro's *Perfection Salad: Women and Cooking at the Turn of the Century*. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

18 THURSDAY

"Read & Look": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. Kids ages 4-6, accompanied by an adult, invited for story time and a tour of the museum. 10:15-11 a.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 764-9304.

***"Art of Collage": International Neighbors.** All area women invited to make a collage to take home. Supplies provided. Refreshments. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Also, a chance to sign up for club activity groups, including help with English. 1-2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 930-9962.

"Jolly Cocktails": Zingerman's Cornman Farms. Zingerman's staff discuss the history of and show how to prepare a trio of festive cocktails from different historical eras: the colonial Hot Buttered Rum, the early 20th-century Brandy Alexander, and the classic Champagne Cocktail. Tastings. With appetizers. Recipes available. 7-9:30 p.m., Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. \$65. Reservations required. 619-8100.

***"Drumunity": Lori Fithian,** a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

***"Songs of the Season": Ypsilanti Community Choir.** Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir in Morten Lauridsen's hauntingly beautiful setting of "O magnum mysterium," the Hanukkah song "Hannerot Halalu," and other works. Accompanist is Maria Cimarelli. The choir is joined by the Motor City Brass Band in "Lo how a rose e're blooming" and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." The band also performs a short solo program. Emcee is WEMU music director Linda Yohn. Preconcert and intermission music by the local jazz quintet BDQ. 7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free, but donations accepted. 481-9285.

"This Wonderful Life": Performance Network. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

"Christmasville: Two Holiday One Acts": Emergent Arts. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Nick Anthony: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 18-20. This young comic from Minnesota is a zany storyteller with a wry, edgy take on life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$12 (Thurs.) & \$15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

19 FRIDAY

***"Fix-It Friday": Maker Works.** All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, and more. Maker Works members and staff will be on hand to help fix things and offer advice. Repairs not guaranteed. 4-6 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). Free. 222-4911.

"Parents' Night Out: Arcade Night": GameStart. All kids in kindergarten and older invited for games and pizza. 5-9 p.m. (late pickup available till 10 p.m.), GameStart, 505 E. Liberty. Tickets \$40 (enter "MARIO" at checkout for \$5 discount) in advance at gamestartschool.org/parentsnightout. 926-9213.

"The Many Faces of the Manchester": Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's Creamery managing partner Aubrey Thomason discusses and offers taste samples of this versatile English soft-ripened cheese, showcasing various ways it can be used, from a standard cheese board to Manchester brûlée

and Manchester puff pastries. 6-8 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$35. Reservations required. 929-0500.

***Holiday Classics Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** Storytelling program for kids age 3 & up (who are invited to come in bedtime attire) featuring *Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *The Night Before Christmas*, and other Christmas favorites, along with other fun activities. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

***"Festive Fridays": Main Street Area Association.** See 12 Friday. Tonight: the a cappella quartets Center Stage and Anything Goes, the U-M breakdancing club Element 1, and Elvis impersonator Chris Solano. 7-9 p.m.

***Crazy Wisdom Book Discussion: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to join a discussion of Palo Alto Zen Center founder Larry Dossey's *The Extraordinary Healing Power of Ordinary Things: Fourteen Natural Steps to Health and Happiness*. 7:30-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

***"Holiday Concert": Women's Chamber Chorus.** David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in an eclectic program that includes Christmas songs ("Nativity Carol," "Sleigh Ride"), fun songs ("This Old Man," "Old Joe Clark"), lyrical tunes ("Always," "Stopping by Woods"), carols ("My Dancing Day," "Simple Gifts"), and more. Piano accompanist is Andrew Anderson. 7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free; donations accepted. 665-9271.

"Clara & the Nut": Randazzo Dance Company. Dec. 19-21. This local company performs Sara Randazzo's show inspired by *The Nutcracker*. In Randazzo's version, a little girl named Clara is presented with gifts at her family's annual holiday party. The gifts each take a turn to dance, delighting Clara and the party guests, but a gift from Clara's mother—"the Canned Nut"—gets everyone to dance and takes Clara on a nighttime adventure to the Land of Snow. The show incorporates many dance styles, from ballet and jazz to Spanish, Russian, Dragon dance, and others. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 19 & 20) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 21), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$25 (seniors age 60 & over and students, \$20; kids age 11 & under, \$15) in advance at randazzodancecompany.com. 528-0273.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Christmasville: Two Holiday One Acts": Emergent Arts. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Gift of the Magi": Performance Network. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Nick Anthony: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

20 SATURDAY

***67th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society.** The count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. This makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening at 6 p.m. 6 a.m. for instructions on where and when to show up and any further information, call Jacco Gelderloos at 973-9422. Free; donations accepted. To sign up as a feeder watcher, contact Kurt Hagemeyer at 663-9746 or khagemeyer@sbcglobal.net.

***Grange Junior Makers: Pittsfield Grange.** Kids, accompanied by a participating adult, invited to work on electronics, robotics, and woodworking projects TBA. 10 a.m.-noon, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. Free. 926-5079.

***Death Café.** All invited to join a frank conversation about death led by participants. Hosted by After Death Home Care founder Marilynne Rush. Tea & Cake served. 10 a.m.-noon, Crazy Wisdom Tearoom, 114 S. Main. Free. 395-9660.

"Nature Tales": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All kids ages 1-5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a reading of Carrie Pearson's *A Warm Winter Tale*. The reading is followed by games and activities to help keep warm. 10-11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$4 per child. 997-1533.

"Pop-Up Makerspace: Towers": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Dec. 20 & 21. All invited for hands-on engineering activities. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec.

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20) & noon-4 p.m. (Dec. 21), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

"Holiday Beast Bash": Great Lakes Zoological Society. All invited for caroling, dancing, photos with Santa & his elf (and possibly a python or two), contests, and more. Craft sales, live animal presentations, cocoa and roasted chestnuts, and telepathic readings by animal communicator Judy Ramsey (bring a photo of your pet, if you wish to have a reading done). 10 a.m., Great Lakes Zoological Society, 6885 Jackson Rd. \$8 (seniors age 55 & over and kids ages 3-11, \$5.50; kids age 2 & under, free). 332-1628.

Holiday Orchid Bazaar: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids). Lunch and a live auction of orchids and orchid-related items. Bring an orchid to submit for judging, if you wish. Judging begins at 1 p.m. 11 a.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. asherdoris@juno.com

"A Visit with Father Christmas": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. For all kids, accompanied by a parent. In conjunction with the current holiday exhibit, *Letters & Leaves: Nature as Inspiration for Poetry*. Noon-2 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. 647-7600.

"Splash Day": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. A family-oriented afternoon of pool games and contests. Prizes. 1:30-4:30 p.m., Mack Indoor Pool, 715 Brooks. \$5 (youth age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & older, \$4). 794-6234.

"Sock Snow Person": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K-5 invited to turn a sock into a snow person doll. 2-3 p.m., AADL Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

"Cork Trivet-Making": Ann Arbor District Library. Local crafter Dawn Henry shows adults and kids in grade 6 & up how to make a trivet using wine corks. Corks provided, or bring your own. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

"3rd Annual Solstice Sing for Peace": All invited to join Lori Fithian, Jean Chorazyczewski, Jean Mackey, and others to sing familiar songs of peace, hope, and good cheer in a candle-lit church sanctuary. 7 p.m., First Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 426-7818.

"Clara & the Nut": Randazzo Dance Company. See 19 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. Peter Baker and Martha vander Kolk call to live music by the Stout Hearted String Band. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. \$10 (Grange members, \$7; students, \$5). 417-0567.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Gift of the Magi": Performance Network. See 5 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Annapurna": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Christmasville: Two Holiday One Acts": Emergent Arts. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Nick Anthony: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

21 SUNDAY

***Hanukkah Celebration:** Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Family-oriented program featuring candle lighting, singing & dancing, craft activities, games, and a Hanukkah Shop where—for a nominal cost—kids can purchase gifts for family and friends. Lots and lots of homemade latkes. All invited. 10:30 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

***"Winter's Grace":** Westminster Presbyterian Church. The church's choir and orchestra perform Joseph M. Martin's new Christmas cantata. 10:30 a.m., Westminster Presbyterian, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 761-9320.

***"Mosaic Jewelry":** Ann Arbor District Library. Mosaicgeek.com creator Shannon Kuchera shows adults and teens in grade 6 & up how to make delicate mosaics to wear as jewelry. Supplies provided. 12:30-2:30 p.m. & 3:30-5:30 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

***"Kerry Tales: Sing a Song with Mother Goose":** Kerrytown Shops. 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769-3115.

***Gallery Tour:** U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. Docent-led tour of the galleries. 2 p.m., Kelsey Museum, meet at the Upjohn Wing entrance on Maynard. Free. 764-9304.

***"Fred Tomaselli: The Times":** UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of Tomaselli's layered collages superimposed on recent *New York Times* cover stories. 2-3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

"Clara & the Nut": Randazzo Dance Company. See 19 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Gift of the Magi": Performance Network. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Christmasville: Two Holiday One Acts": Emergent Arts. See 11 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Caroled": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 p.m.

***"Traditional King's College Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols":** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. The music begins with a haunting solo treble performance of "Once in Royal David's City." 4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

Winter Solstice Sing: Michigan Friends Center. All adults and older children invited to join an outdoor circle to learn and sing seasonal songs, rounds, and chants. 7-9 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7448 Clark Lake Rd. (off Oakridge from Waterloo Rd. west of M-52), Chelsea. Donation. Preregistration requested. 475-0942.

"Chili Challis' UNclub Comedy Open Mike": Emergent Arts. See 7 Sunday. 8 p.m.

22 MONDAY

***"Pete the Cat Fanmail":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K-5 invited to make a Pete the Cat puppet and compose an illustrated letter to send to Eric Litwin, the author of the popular Pete the Cat picture books. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

23 TUESDAY

***"Stamp It!":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades preK-5 invited to use the AADL rubber stamp collection to make a holiday card, winter mural, or other craft. 2-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

24 WEDNESDAY (CHRISTMAS EVE)

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Dec. 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 794-6235.

***Living Nativity:** First Congregational Church. Costumed reenactors, accompanied by a live camel, goats, sheep, and a donkey, re-create the traditional Nativity scene. 4-8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662-1679.

***Lessons and Carols:** First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with congregational carols and *A Ceremony of Carols*, Benjamin Britten's celebrated carol sequence for boys' voices and harp. With harpist Margot Box. Also, a 30-minute instrumental prelude precedes each program. 5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

***Lessons and Carols:** Northside Community Church. Congregational singing of carols interspersed with a reading of the Christmas story. Tenor Glenn Perry is featured in "Oh Holy Night." The program concludes with a candle lighting procession accompanied by handbell soloist Sheree Clark and singing of "Silent Night." Pianist is Kathryn Goodson. Preceded at 6:40 p.m. by an instrumental prelude. 7-8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662-6351.

***Festival of Lessons and Carols:** First Baptist Church. The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663-9376.

***"Festival Prelude":** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in settings of the O Magnum

Mysterium by Gabrielli and Lauridsen, along with traditional Christmas favorites. 10 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

25 THURSDAY (CHRISTMAS)

See Michigan Theater listings in Films, p. 97.

26 FRIDAY

"Hands-On Holidays": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Dec. 26-Jan. 4. Family-friendly hands-on activities, performances, and demonstrations. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Mon.-Fri., except Jan. 1) & noon-4 p.m. (Sun. & Jan. 1), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995-5439.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. Dec. 26, 27, & 29-31. Movie and TV star, playwright, and Purple Rose founder Daniels is also a singer-songwriter whose folk-flavored originals include such favorites as "If William Shatner Can, I Can, Too," "The Lifelong Tiger Fan Blues," "State Trooper," and "Recreational Vehicle." His shows are interspersed with chats about how each song came to be. This year's show features a mix of old favorites and songs from Daniels' new album, *Days Like These*. A benefit for Purple Rose. The Dec. 27 shows include a Q&A with Daniels and dinner. 8 p.m. (all dates) & 3 p.m. (Dec. 27 & 31), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$90 (Dec. 26, 29, & 30 and matinees); \$100 (Dec. 31 eve.); \$175 (Dec. 27) includes dinner. purplerosetheatre.org. 433-7673.

Ricardo Flanagan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 26 & 27. Local African American underground comic known for his biting takes on relationships, racial relations, workplace issues, and poverty. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$13 reserved seating in advance, \$15 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

27 SATURDAY

***"Dancing Babies":** Ann Arbor District Library. KinderRock (Saline) teacher Melissa Hudson leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a dancing program. 10-10:40 a.m., AADL Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

***"Natural Family Playgroup":** Green Apple Garden Playschool. Playgroup for kids ages 1-5, accompanied by a parent. 10 a.m., Green Apple Garden Playschool, 2664 Miller. Free. greenapplegarden.org. 369-8248.

Hearth and Hymn: Webster United Church of Christ. The Kalamazoo-based duo of vocalists and multi-instrumentalists Elizabeth Pixley-Fink and Samantha Cooper present a concert of standards, hymn tunes and Christmas music. Proceeds go to the emergency food fund of the Sanzule refugee camp in Ghana. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Webster Church, 5484 Webster Church Rd. at Farrell (between Joy and N. Territorial), Webster Twp. Donation. 426-5115.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Ricardo Flanagan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

28 SUNDAY

***"The Prairie in Winter":** Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads a hike to explore the tall-grass prairie. 2-4 p.m., Leonard Preserve, meet at the dead end of Union St. north off Main west of M-52, Manchester. Free. 971-6337, ext. 335.

***"String Word Art":** Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults & kids in grade 6 & up. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

"Happy Holidays Television Hour": Arbor Opera Theater. This polished local opera company presents a fun-filled spoof of the classic 1963 Judy Garland Christmas Special, with music, dance, and actors playing celebrity guests such as Mel Tormé, Peggy Lee, and Mickey Rooney. Desserts, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks available. 4 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. \$10 (refreshments seating, \$25) in advance at arboropera.com. 332-9063.

"Chili Challis' UNclub Comedy Open Mike": Emergent Arts. See 7 Sunday. 8 p.m.

29 MONDAY

***"Silly Stories":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local storytellers Nicole Williams and Laura Pershin Raynor present a program of funny folktales for kids in grades preK-3 and their families. 2-2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

***History of Science Reading Group:** Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss *Chasing the Molecule*, John Buckingham's book about the discovery of the molecule in the 1850s. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Piano Lounge Night with Ann Dahl": The Mix Studio Theater. See 8 Monday. 8 p.m.

30 TUESDAY

***Joe Reilly:** Ann Arbor District Library. This popular local singer-songwriter presents an interactive program of engagingly playful environmental songs for kids in grades preK-5, including material from his acclaimed CDs *Children of the Earth* and *Let's Go Outside*. 2-2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

"Boogie Stomp!": Performance Network. Dec. 30 & 31. Veteran Detroit-bred pianist Bob Baldori, a member of Chuck Berry's band since 1966, and award-winning Arizona-based pianist Arthur Migliazza, whose mentors include Ann Arbor's Mr. B, present their theatrical revue telling the story of boogie woogie, including its origins, subsequent history, and ongoing development, along with its relationship to the larger fabric of American music. 8 p.m. (Dec. 30) and 6 & 9:45 p.m. (Dec. 31), Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$35 & \$100 (Dec. 30) and \$75 & \$100 (Dec. 31) in advance by phone and at pntheatre.org, and at the door. 663-0681.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 8 p.m.

31 WEDNESDAY (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

***"Bring in the New Year Craft":** Ann Arbor District Library. All preschoolers through 5th graders invited to make hats and noisemakers for New Year's Eve. 2-3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Boogie Stomp!": Performance Network. See 30 Tuesday. 6 & 9:45 p.m.

"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. All invited to join an annual year-end candle-lighting ceremony that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. 7-9 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Donation. 761-6520.

"New Year's Eve Ann Arbor Dinner Trek & Midnight Bell Concert": Of Global Interest. Local adventure tour company owners Pem Dorjee Sherpa and Heather O'Neal lead an invigorating 6-mile hike from downtown to the Old West Side, then north to Barton Dam and back along the Huron River, ending in Kerrytown. Potluck dinner at picnic tables along the way (bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert to share and your own beverage and water; plates, forks, and napkins provided). Followed by a midnight bell concert on the Kerrytown chimes. Rain, snow, sleet, hail, or shine. Dress for the weather. 7:30 p.m., meet at the Himalayan Bazaar, 218 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. ofglobal@aol.com

Reese Waters: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Veteran stand-up comic from Washington, D.C., a regular guest on late-night TV known for his fresh, trenchant observational humor about the trials of daily life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$25 (8 p.m.) & \$30 (10:30 p.m.) in advance & at the door. 996-9080.

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of socializing and dancing to recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by a DJ. Cash bar. 8:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$15 includes midnight buffet. 973-1933, 994-0587, 214-6449.

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ISPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 111? If you can, you could win a \$25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769-3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Please include your address and phone number.

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THE DOWNS - Premium 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath Landau-built colonial on a pastoral 6-acre lot in one of the area's most sought after locations. The setting is perfect, with expansive views, extensive landscaping, and an in-ground pool. This spectacular home features grand curved staircase, two-story living room, gourmet kitchen, family room with fieldstone fireplace, luxury first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$1,295,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR HILLS - Absolutely stunning 4 BR, 3 BA mid-century modern home designed by Metcalf. This home rests on one of the most beautiful settings in Ann Arbor with gorgeous hill top view and 3/4 acres of mature landscaping with wonderful outdoor living areas. No expense was spared to update this to modern standards. Features include gourmet kitchen, dream master suite, wonderful living areas with walls of glass, and the finest mechanical systems to be found. \$1,195,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



WINES ELEMENTARY - Striking 4 BR, 3 BA, 2 1/2 BA formal showcase home on a gorgeous hilltop acre lot. Incredible setting in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after locations. The interior of this home is picture perfect, including renovated kitchen with painted maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, family room, wall of glass to the backyard, walnut paneled den, dream master suite, and finished basement. \$1,095,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - This custom built 5 BR, 5 1/2 BA home represents only the finest in quality construction and materials. Incredible space and upgrades throughout. Resting on a peaceful acre+ lot in quiet country sub, a wonderful location to call home. The residence is highlighted by a stunning custom kitchen with granite counter tops, great room with hardwood floor, dream master suite with spa-like bath, and one of the nicest finished basements you will see. \$799,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE - Very high quality 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built home overlooking the 18th Fairway at Stonebridge. Great setting with one of the most spacious feelings available in the neighborhood. The home is gorgeous and features two-story great room with wall of glass overlooking the course, large kitchen, den, luxury first floor master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and finished lower level with large rec room and tons of nature light. \$639,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - This is one of the most incredible homes I have ever listed. Stunning Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home built to the highest standard of craftsmanship and materials. Enjoy your own park-like acre plus setting with mature landscaping, large patio, and stream. Home is jaw dropping at every turn including custom kitchen with granite, custom woodwork in every room, two fireplaces, waterfall, and outbuilding. \$534,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - LEGACY HEIGHTS - Better than new, 2 year old 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA home on a cul-de-sac lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. This home rests on a spacious 3/4-acre site with a great backyard and large multi-tier patio. The interior is just perfect and features ample hardwood floors, upgraded trim, perfect kitchen with granite and SS appliances, luxury master suite, and large kids' bedrooms. \$479,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



KING SCHOOL - Completely remodeled 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA Colonial in one of Ann Arbor's most desired locations. This setting is special - backing to mature trees with large deck and great landscaping. The home has been completely redone in the past six months featuring a gorgeous maple kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, open family room with fireplace, den, nice master suite with new bath, and finished basement. \$469,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - STONEBRIDGE - Gorgeous 4 BR, 3 BA detached ranch condo on the #3 Fairway at Stonebridge. Enjoy stunning views of one of the prettiest holes on the course. This unit has been perfectly updated. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, large kitchen with oak hardwood floors, granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances, luxury first floor master suite, and finished lower level with rec room, 2 bedrooms, and bath. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LANDSDOWNE - Very sharp 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA Colonial in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods. Great lot with huge backyard, large deck, and gorgeous landscaping. The interior features remodeled kitchen with maple cabinets, granite countertops, and stainless steel appliances, all hardwood floors throughout, family room with fireplace, updated master suite, and finished basement. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Very sharp 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot conveniently located just minutes to Schools, Ann Arbor, and shopping. Wonderful setting on a spacious acre lot with extensive landscaping and large deck. The interior of the home is wonderful. Features included two story great room with hardwood floor, open kitchen, luxury first floor master suite, great sized kids bedrooms, and an open loft that can be the 4th bedroom. \$419,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SE ANN ARBOR - Hard to find 4 BR, 3 BA ranch on peaceful 2 1/2-acre country lot just minutes from the Ann Arbor, shopping, and freeways. Incredible setting with mature trees, extensive landscaping, and large paver patio. The interior of the home is sharp and features great room with fireplace and tons of natural light, open kitchen with Corian countertops and stainless steel appliances, first floor master suite with walk-in closet and attached bath, and finished lower level with large rec room, bedroom, and bath. \$292,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GREENHILLS CONDO - This 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA condo on Ann Arbor's NE side is ready for you. Enjoy the beautiful view of nature and open space from the large deck. The interior of this condo is sharp and includes mostly hardwood floor on the main level, open kitchen with oversized eating area, living room with fireplace, large master suite, and sizeable 2nd and 3rd bedrooms. \$254,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

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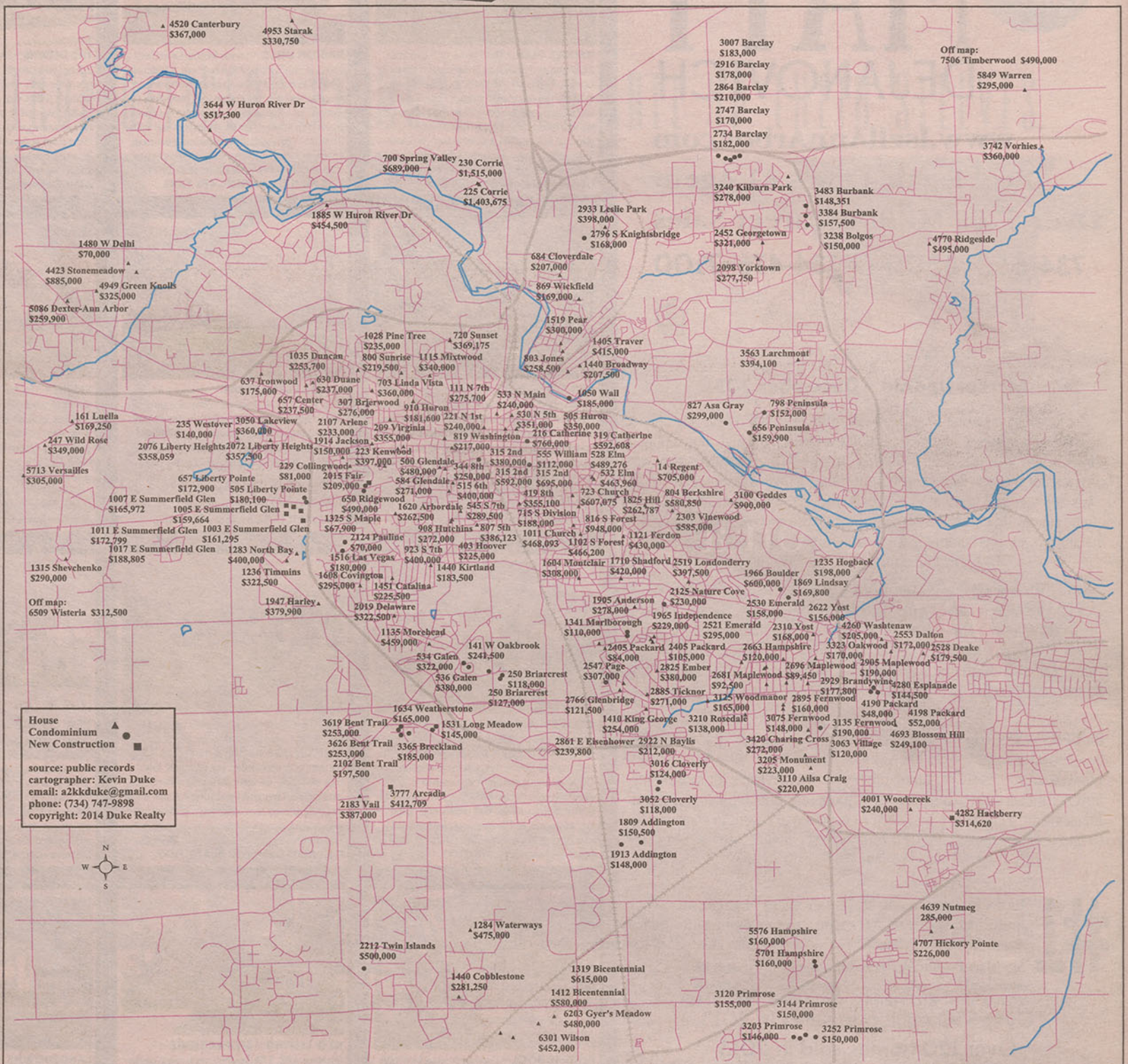
HOME SALES

On average, American home-owners sell their homes and move every eight years. Whether we're taking on a new job, retiring, or trading up or down as circumstances change in life, more than 12 percent of our homes change hands each year. And as we bounce around, home prices bounce up and down too, much like the stock market. What if the average stock changed hands every eight years?

For comparison, we compiled a selection of investments to contrast with the change in Ann Arbor home prices. Our list starts with Apple and ends with Citigroup, both giants of their industries. Morningstar's stock value calculator indicates that a share of Apple rose 831 percent over the last eight years, while Citigroup sank 89 percent.

Where do Ann Arbor homes fit into the picture? During the first ten months of this year, 1,811 homes changed hands in the Ann Arbor school district, thirty-two shy of the rapid pace recorded during the first ten months of 2013. Based on an examination of public records, the median selling price of a single-family home was \$290,000—just 1 percent higher than it was in 2006. Condominiums are down 9 percent, at a median price of \$164,000. While our list does not account for factors such as taxes or dividends, it does note that an investment would need to earn 18 percent over the last eight years in order to break even with inflation.

Some stocks on our list have deeper roots in Ann Arbor than others. A local start-up that grew into a pizza powerhouse



The median selling price of a single-family home in the first ten months of 2014 was \$290,000—just 1 percent higher than it was in 2006.

posts the second best gain on our short list: Domino's stock is up a tasty 233 percent. Domino's corporate headquarters is still located in the lean, green office park that founder Thomas Monaghan built on the southeast corner of M-14 and US-23.

It's a very different story just down the street. Remember when Pfizer occupied the huge research and development complex at the intersection of Plymouth Rd. and Huron Pkwy.? Eight years ago, the pharmaceutical company announced it was leaving town and that 2,410 local jobs would be affected. Since then, Pfizer's share price has risen only 12 percent.

—Kevin Duke

#	Investment 2006-14	Gain
1	Apple	831%
2	Domino's	233%
3	Chessie	203%
4	Pall	196%
5	Enbridge	166%
6	Intuit	163%
7	Kroger	160%
8	Norfolk Southern	127%
9	Berkshire Hathaway	104%
10	Comcast	101%
11	Whirlpool	100%
12	gold	96%
13	La-Z-Boy	82%
14	IBM	75%
15	Johnson Controls	74%
16	U-M Endowment	72%
17	DTE	70%
18	Ford	70%
19	Microsoft	69%
20	Stryker	69%
21	Taubman Centers	64%
22	Verizon	59%
23	Wells Fargo	47%

#	Investment 2006-14	Gain
24	Dow Jones Industrials	44%
25	Exxon Mobil	30%
26	Kellogg	27%
27	JPM Chase	26%
28	Dow	25%
29	Compuware	23%
30	Symantec	23%
31	Marathon Oil	20%
32	dollar (after inflation)	18%
33	Toll Brothers	13%
34	Pfizer	12%
35	AT&T	8%
36	A2 Single-Family Median	1%
37	A2 Condominium Median	-9%
38	Comerica	-18%
39	Weatherford	-19%
40	Masco	-20%
41	GE	-27%
42	Pulte	-33%
43	Gannett	-48%
44	Cliffs Nat Resources	-50%
45	Bank of America	-69%
46	Citigroup	-89%



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Superior Township

With 60 acres of woods, meadows and ponds, this exquisitely renovated farmhouse features a stunning vaulted family room, gourmet kitchen, carriage house with office & kitchen, barn, gated entrance, and much more. **\$1,495,000**



Dexter

You will find the utmost in quality and every imaginable upgrade in this custom home with over 6000 sq. ft. Spectacular 1st floor master suite. Two-story great room with wall of windows viewing the gorgeous 3+ acres. **\$1,250,000**



Ann Arbor

Designed by Metcalf, this meticulously updated Barton Hills home has been remodeled from top to bottom. Incredible views of wooded lot from floor to ceiling windows. New patio with outdoor kitchen. **\$1,179,500**



Ann Arbor

Located in Newport Creek on an exceptional private wooded lot, this luxurious home is highlighted by high-end upgrades throughout. Amazing finished, walk-out lower level with wet bar, guest suite, and theater room. **\$1,150,000**



Saline

Exceptional custom home at Brookview Highlands featuring over 7300 total square feet with a finished walk-out lower level, 5 bedrooms, a vaulted sunroom, study and 4.2 baths. Top of the line gourmet kitchen. **\$859,900**



Ann Arbor

Gorgeous Downtown views from this unique, multi-level condo with a neighborhood feel. 3 bedrooms & 3.1 baths. Upscale finishes with granite, hardwood floors, wood trim and doors, built-ins, and fantastic outdoor living spaces. **\$749,900**



Chelsea

Luxury country living at its finest. Almost 6,000 sq. ft. with 4 bedrooms, 5.1 baths, and finished walk-out with 2nd kitchen, family room, and full bath. On 28 acres with outbuilding and private, stocked 3-acre lake! **\$724,900**



Pinckney

One-of-a-kind home is a real treat to the senses. Hidden in the woods, surrounded by gardens with Baseline lake access, it offers a residence, art studio, separate 2 bedroom in-law apartment, and large outbuilding. **\$700,000**



Ann Arbor

Situated in Burns Park, this vintage home was built with unmatched quality. Many recent updates. Finished basement with daylight windows. Nicely landscaped back yard has brick paver patio and pond. **\$659,900**



Ann Arbor

Lush views of Ann Arbor from the fifth floor of this luxurious Ashley Terrace condo in the heart of downtown. 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, flex space and in-unit laundry. Secured parking and storage. **\$479,900**



Ann Arbor

Upscale golf community living in this elegant, 4 bedroom Stonebridge Estates home. Finished lower level has full bath, wet bar, rec area, and gym with egress window. Large deck surrounded by trees for added privacy. **\$450,000**



Dexter

Situated high on a hill with incredible views, this south facing home is located in the prestigious Brass Creek neighborhood. Soaring two-story family room with cozy fireplace and French doors leading to patio. **\$450,000**



Saline

A new kitchen is just one of the many recent updates in this spacious contemporary at Travis Pointe. Gorgeous views of the pond and common area. New paint, flooring, roof, siding, water softener and more. **\$374,900**



Ann Arbor

Light-filled Cape Cod in The Ponds at Stonebridge. Spacious condo with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, a loft space, and finished lower level. First floor master suite. Just 10 minutes from downtown Ann Arbor & Saline. **\$329,000**



Ann Arbor

Main floor condo in the desirable original section of Weatherstone. Open floor plan with vaulted ceilings, 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Community offers a pool, clubhouse, exercise room and hot tub. **\$178,500**

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Abacadabra.....	56	Elizabeth J. Interiors.....	75	Pain Recovery Solutions.....	99
Achaz Pie Company.....	71	Encore Online Resale.....	93	Park Shoe Repair.....	59
Allen Creek Preschool.....	93	Evangelical Homes of Michigan.....	34	Peaceable Pets Animal Care.....	11
Allstate Darts & Billiard Access.....	BC	Exchange Capital Management Inc.....	17	Pear Tree.....	63
American Home Fitness.....	18			Performance Network.....	88
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation.....	7	Final Round.....	5	Pet 'N Play.....	13
Ann Arbor Art Association.....		First Baptist Church.....	55, 78	Pierre Paul Art Gallery.....	60
Art Center.....	57	First Presbyterian Church.....	31, 91	Polo Fields.....	73
Ann Arbor Artists Collective.....	63	First United Methodist Church.....	63	Procerus Skin Care.....	19
Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre.....	61	Flatsnoots Christmas Trees.....	88	Purple Rose Theatre Company.....	84
Ann Arbor City Club.....	82	Gerald Ford Library.....	86		
Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.....	77	Format Framing & Gallery.....	38		
Ann Arbor District Library.....	80, 87	Found.....	55	Diane Ratkovich, realtor.....	25
Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.....	95	Fox's Towing.....	86	Ravens Club.....	67
Ann Arbor Historical Foundation.....	60	Friends of AADL.....	81	Real Estate One.....	107
Ann Arbor Observer.....	66, 74, 79, 90, 91, 96, 103, 106, 111, 112	Front Porch Textiles.....	61	Real Irish, authentic crafts made in Ireland.....	63
Ann Arbor Public Schools.....	12	Gago Center for Fertility.....	44	Charles Reinhart Co.....	105
Ann Arbor Running Company.....	90	Germain Audi.....	2	Charles Reinhart Company—Commercial.....	13
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.....	83	Germain Volkswagen.....	2	Restoration Vein.....	98
Ann Arbor Transportation Authority.....	89, insert	Gold Bond Cleaners.....	98	Ed & Lisa Ridha, realtor.....	38
Arbor Dog Daycare & Boarding.....	32	Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary.....	13	River Raisin Ragtime Revue.....	87
Arbor Farms Market.....	61	Grizzly Peak Brewing Company/Old German.....	68	Ron's Garage.....	78
Arbor Hills Shopping Center.....	33, 37	Gross Electric.....	43	Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor.....	92
Arbor Lawn Care.....	110			Running Fit.....	25
Arbor Springs Water.....	98	Heavenly Metal.....	53		
Arbor Vacuum Cleaner Center.....	52	Hollander's.....	55	Select Ride.....	1
Arborland Mall.....	60	Holtz Christmas Tree Plantation.....	13	Seling Design, LLC.....	32
Artists & Architects Salon.....	75	Home Appliance Mart.....	26, 44	Sesi Motors.....	15
Aut Bar & Common Language Book Store.....	65	Howard Hanna Real Estate Services.....	10	Seva.....	71
Avanti Hair Fashions.....	17	Huron Valley Financial Inc.....	106	John Shultz, photography.....	48
		Hylant of Ann Arbor.....	25	Sixteen Hands.....	54
		In Touch Therapeutic Massage.....	97	Spitting Vulture Casino.....	101
Bebe's Nail & Spa.....	101			Spruced Up Spaces, LLC.....	38
Bellinella Day Spa & Gift Boutique.....	58	Jessica's Skin & Body Apothecary.....	44	Stone Enterprises Inc.....	110
Bennett Optometry.....	51	Jolly Pumpkin.....	66	Summers-Knoll School.....	92
Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Washtenaw County.....	85			Sweetwaters Cafe.....	7
Birkenstock.....	54	Ken's-Nielsen Flowers.....	97		
Nancy Bishop, realtor.....	22	Kerrytown Associates.....	6, 40	Ten Thousand Villages.....	56
Bivouac.....	24	Kerrytown Kindlefest/Midnight Madness.....	54	Think Local First.....	36
Blue Tractor/MASH.....	68	Kilwin's Chocolates.....	65	Tio's Mexican Restaurant.....	70
Books by Andrei Markovits.....	39	David Klein.....	110	Title Boxing Club.....	7
The Bouma Group.....	109			Traver Village Shopping Center.....	74
Boxwood Cottage & Home.....	53	Lucy Ann Lance.....	89, 101	Travis Pointe Country Club.....	20
Boychoir of Ann Arbor.....	59	Lena/Habana.....	64	Treasure Mart.....	40
Bridal Gown Cleaning.....	110	Carolyn Lepard, realtor.....	26		
Elizabeth Brien, realtor.....	9	Lewis Jewelers.....	21	U-M Department of Urology.....	99
Brookhaven Manor.....	46	Lexi's Toy Box.....	59	U-M Institute for Humanities.....	8
		Lily Grace Cosmetics.....	56	U-M Matthaei Botanical Center.....	8
Cafe Felix.....	64	Logan Restaurant.....	68	U-M Museum of Art.....	8
Cardamom.....	64			U-M School of Music.....	8
Casey's Tavern.....	68			University Musical Society.....	IBC
Catching Fireflies.....	56	Main Street Area Association.....	81	USA Hockey.....	40
Center for Brainwave Balance PLLC.....	21	Mani Osteria & Bar.....	64		
Center for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.....	23	Mast Shoes.....	62	WCBN.....	9
Christensen Home Improvement.....	11	McMullen, Thomas Properties.....	14	WCC Health & Fitness Center.....	2
City of Ann Arbor—Parks & Rec. Dept.....	23	Meadowlark Building.....	43	Washtenaw County Historical Society.....	7
Snow Management.....	94	Metzger's German Restaurant.....	66	Washtenaw County Water Resources.....	4
Coffee Express.....	65	Mezzevino Restaurant.....	66	Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium.....	9
Collected Works.....	36	Michigan Dental Association.....	16	Wellbridge.....	9
The Common Grill.....	67	Michigan Theater.....	85	Welcome Home.....	3
Common Language Bookstore.....	96	Alex Milshteyn.....	28		
		Mix.....	11	Ypsi Area Dancers.....	9
		Mobile Mower Repair Inc.....	91		
		Monahan's Seafood Market.....	69		
		Motawi Tileworks.....	36		
		Mrs. Fields Cookies.....	53		
		Ms. Green Construction.....	42	Zingerman's Community of Businesses.....	7
		Mudpuddles.....	54	Zumeta, Zena.....	1

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Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

"Those windows belong to the Fleming Administration Building!" says Deborah Wyse, a former Ann Arborite now living in Philadelphia.

"I'm two thousand miles away," writes Peter Herbert of Sun City West, Arizona, but even from there, the brick cube is "quite unmistakable."

"It's said that the windows are so narrow to make the building 'riot proof,'" shares Jenna Clark. Rebecca Sweeton heard "that the walls bow out from top to bottom to prevent ladders from being put up against them."

"The myth is that it was designed as a fortress to keep out student protesters," writes Will Hathaway. "In truth it is a Borg space ship from Star Trek."

Louisa Griffes notes that architect Alden Dow denied that he designed it for defense against student protests, explaining that "the narrow window design was meant to make the building more energy efficient."

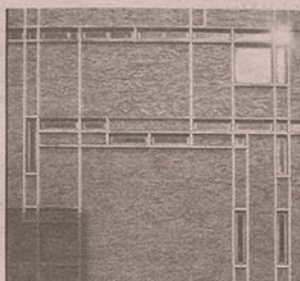
Thirty-four people correctly identified the Fleming Administration Building.



Originally the site of Ann Arbor's largest locally owned department store

Our random-drawing winner is Wyse, who writes, "knowing the answer to the I Spy was a reassuring counterpoint to the news that Middle Earth is closing." She'll enjoy her \$25 gift certificate at Zingerman's Roadhouse.

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above to identify the scene, then follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.



fake ad

by Jay Forstner

Only 73 clever Fake Adders spotted last month's Fake Ad for the Kalkaska Convention and Visitors Bureau on page 90 of the November Observer. The previous winner's name, "Karl," was hidden in the text, "The hotels in Kalkaska are [R] Luxurious."

By the way, if you ever have some nits that need picking, look no further than Andy Yagle, who wrote, "Nice hiding of Karl, but, 'The restaurants are delicious.' Are they gingerbread houses? And, 'The people are tremendous.' Do they all need to go on a diet?"

Once Andy finished criticizing our careless modification, he shared some inter-

esting information. "Trivia: Kalkaska's latitude is 44 degrees, 44 minutes, 4 seconds north," he wrote. "A map of Kalkaska is featured on the cover of *Problem Solving with C++* by Walter Savitch (7th ed., Pearson International Edition). So Kalkaska is the most famous city in the USA worldwide for computer programmers. Wonder how many think it is in Silicon Valley."

Our drawing winner was Jörg Waltje. He's taking his gift certificate to the Michigan Theater.

To enter this month's contest, find the fake ad, identify it by name and page number, and follow the instructions in the box below. The fake ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.



To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy" to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on Wednesday, December 10, will be eligible for this month's random drawings. Winners will receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our November drawing!

The following readers won a **\$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

November winners:

James & Geraldine C. and Patricia N.

If you would like to be entered in the December drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 96, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by December 15.

Thanks!

Observer Staff

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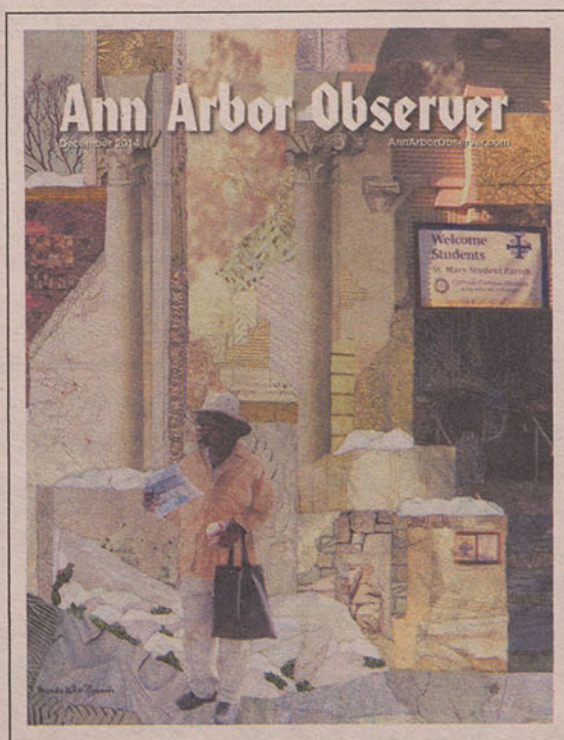
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Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 79. Films: p. 97. Galleries: p. 86. Nightspots begin on p. 76.

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- Measure for Measure, Dec. 5
- "Croissant Concert" (Kerrytown Concert House), Dec. 6
- Annual Evening of Sacred Song, Dec. 6
- Choral Union Messiah Sing, Dec. 6
- TubaChristmas, Dec. 7
- Chaverim B'Shirim choir, Dec. 7
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 7
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 9
- "Opera in Concert: Rossini's *William Tell*," Dec. 9
- Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Dec. 11
- Saline Varsity Blues, Dec. 12
- Community Messiah Sing, Dec. 13
- "A Boychoir Christmas," Dec. 13
- George Shirley Scholarship Fundraiser, Dec. 13
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 13
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 14
- Ann Arbor Grail Singers, Dec. 14
- Dexter Community Orchestra, Dec. 14
- Ypsilanti Community Choir, Dec. 18
- Women's Chamber Chorus, Dec. 19
- Christmas Lessons & Carols programs, Dec. 21 & 24

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

See *Nightspots*, p. 76, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs

- Singer-songwriter Katie Geddes, Dec. 5
- Jazz-folk singer Ashley Daneman, Dec. 5
- Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, Dec. 7
- Donald Sinta Quartet (jazz), Dec. 12
- Kim & Reggie Harris with Maggie (folk), Dec. 12
- "All about the Trio: Music of George Gershwin," Dec. 14
- "Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged," Dec. 26, 27, & 29-31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *This Wonderful Life* (Performance Network), Dec. 2-4, 9-11, & 16-18
- *Annapurna* (Purple Rose), Dec. 4-7, 11-14, & 18-20
- *Christmas Caroled* (Encore), Dec. 4-7, 11-14, & 18-21
- *Tintypes* (EMU Theatre), Dec. 4-7
- *Tryst* (Basement Arts), Dec. 4-6
- *Fuenteovejuna* (U-M Theatre), Dec. 4-7
- *A Fairytale Christmas Carol* (Saline Area Players), Dec. 4-7
- *You Can't Take It with You* (PTD), Dec. 4-7 & 10-13
- *Ruddigore* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 4-7
- *Sleeping Beauty* (EMU Dance), Dec. 5
- *Gift of the Magi* (Performance Network), Dec. 5-7, 12-14, & 19-21
- *The Nutcracker* (Ballet Chelsea), Dec. 6 & 7
- *The Seagull* (U-M Residential College), Dec. 6
- *Skylight* (National Theatre broadcast), Dec. 11
- *Christmasville* (Emergent Arts), Dec. 11-14 & 18-21
- *The Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre), Dec. 12-14
- *The History of Ypsilanti* (Dreamland Puppet Troupe), Dec. 12
- *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Metropolitan Opera broadcast), Dec. 13

- "A Holiday Extravaganza: Dancing Through the Ages" (Arthur Murray Dance Studio), Dec. 13
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 14
- *Alice in Wonderland* (Royal Opera House broadcast), Dec. 16
- *Clara & the Nut*, Dec. 19-21
- "Happy Holidays Television Hour" (Arbor Opera), Dec. 28
- *Boogie Stomp* (Performance Network), Dec. 30 & 31

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- *RiffTrax Live! Santa Clause*, Dec. 4
- Comic Sean Kent, Dec. 4-6
- Comic Jackie Kashian, Dec. 11-13
- Comic Nick Anthony, Dec. 18-20
- Comic Ricarlo Flanagan, Dec. 26 & 27
- Comic Reese Waters, Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 5-7
- Saline Moonlight Madness Craft Show, Dec. 5
- Kerrytown Kindlefest, Dec. 5
- Midnight Madness, Dec. 5
- Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 5-7
- City Club Arts & Crafts Fest, Dec. 6
- Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show, Dec. 6
- Saline Historical Society 1930s Christmas on the Farm, Dec. 6, 13, & 20
- German Family Christmas (Kempf House), Dec. 6, 7, 13, & 14
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 6 & 7
- Saline Holiday Parade, Dec. 6
- Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas, Dec. 7
- Hanukkah Celebration (Jewish Cultural Society), Dec. 21

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Mayor Christopher Taylor, Dec. 1
- Fiction writer Charles Baxter, Dec. 2
- Poets Lorna Goodison & Keith Taylor, Dec. 10
- Poet Scott Beal, Dec. 16

Miscellaneous

- Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Classic, Dec. 6
- "19th Century Masked Fantasy Ball," Dec. 13

Family & Kids' Stuff

- Polar Express Pajama Party, Dec. 5
- *The Snow Queen* (Civic Theatre Junior Theatre), Dec. 5-7
- Rudolf Steiner Holiday Bazaar & Children's Faire, Dec. 6
- "Dinosaur Discovery Day," Dec. 6
- *Junie B. Jones* (Theatreworks USA), Dec. 6
- "Sing Along with Santa" (Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra), Dec. 6
- "Ariel & Zoey & Eli," Dec. 7
- *Great Expectations* (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 12-14
- "Holiday Beast Bash" (Great Lakes Zoological Society), Dec. 20

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "New Year's Eve Ann Arbor Dinner Trek & Midnight Bell Concert," Dec. 31

DECEMBER

EVENTS

Rossini's *William Tell*

Handel's *Messiah*

UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone, conductor
Janai Brugger, soprano
David Daniels, countertenor
Colin Ainsworth, tenor
David Pittsinger, bass-baritone
Edward Parmentier, harpsichord
Saturday, December 6, 8 pm
Sunday, December 7, 2 pm
Hill Auditorium

The holiday season in Ann Arbor is never officially underway until Handel's *Messiah* is performed at Hill Auditorium. An eagerly anticipated holiday season tradition, these performances are ultimately the heart and soul of UMS, dating back to the organization's founding and first concerts in the 1879-1880 season. The performances connect audiences not only with the talented artists on stage but also with the friends and family who attend each year. In a true community tradition, the performance features the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, the 175 voices of the Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union (2006 "Best Choral Performance"), conductor Jerry Blackstone, and two U-M alumni as soloists — Janai Brugger and David Daniels.

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BE PRESENT

OPERA IN CONCERT

Rossini's *William Tell*

Teatro Regio Torino Orchestra and Chorus
Gianandrea Nosedà, music director
featuring
Fabio Capitanucci, baritone (*William Tell*)
Angela Meade, soprano (*Matilde*)
John Osborn, tenor (*Arnoldo*)
Marco Spotti, bass (*Gualtiero*)
Tuesday, December 9, 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

William Tell was Rossini's final opera, despite the fact that the composer lived for nearly 40 years after composing it. Its premiere was triumphant but the opera's epic scale and extravagant vocal demands have rendered revivals few and far between. Recognized immediately from its famous, galloping overture, *William Tell* dramatizes the life of the Swiss folk hero whose expert marksmanship with a crossbow is the stuff of legends. A grand opera in every sense, *William Tell* thrills with its passionate arias, superb ensembles, and sweeping orchestral splendor. This concert version introduces four operatic soloists to local audiences alongside the 200-member orchestra and chorus of the Royal Theatre of Turin, one of the most important opera houses in Italy.

Teatro Regio Torino is grateful for the generous support of its Rossini Tour Main Partners Barilla, Eataly, Eni, Lavazza and Tour Sponsor Maserati. Special thanks to The Opera Foundation.

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Susan B. Ullrich Endowment Fund

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NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

David Hare's *Skylight*

Stephen Daldry, director
Thursday, December 11, 2014, 7:00 pm
Michigan Theater

On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra Hollis (Carey Mulligan) receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, Tom Sergeant (Bill Nighy), a successful and charismatic restaurateur whose wife has recently died. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find themselves locked in a dangerous battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires.

High-Definition Broadcasts from National Theatre, London. Presented in partnership with the Michigan Theater.

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